


# Yukon Region

## First Nation

### Profiles



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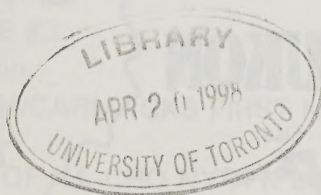
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# YUKON REGION

## FIRST NATION

## PROFILES



Published under the authority of the  
Hon. Ronald A. Irwin, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development  
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, 1995

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and Government Services Canada

Department of Indian and Northern Affairs  
October 1995

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français







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## INTRODUCTION

This is the third publication of *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*. This book is a source of historical and background information about the First Nations in the region. It also outlines the role of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in each of the communities.

The information provided in *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles* is subject to change, and therefore addendums may be provided. The profiles are for reference use by the First Nations, government agencies and the media.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would appreciate feedback on how to improve *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*; therefore your comments are welcome. As well, the department hopes that the Profiles provide useful and accurate information about an area in which there is overwhelming interest.

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**FIRST NATION CHIEFS AND MANAGERS  
YUKON REGION**

<b>FIRST NATION</b>	<b>CHIEF</b>	<b>MANAGER</b>	<b>NUMBERS (PH. &amp; FAX)</b>
<b>Carcross/Tagish</b>	Patrick James Box 130 Carcross, Y.T. Y0B 1B0	Dietmar Tram Exec. Director	821-4251 821-4802 FAX #
<b>Champagne/Aishihik</b>	Paul Birckel Box 5309 Haines Junction, Y.T. Y0B 1L0	Lena Smith-Tutin Director	668-6877 634-2288 634-2108 FAX # 667-6303 FAX #
<b>Dease River</b>	Roy Carlick General Delivery Good Hope Lake, B.C. V0C 2Z0	Allen Bunjun Manager	(604) 239-3000 239-3003 FAX #
<b>Kaska Tribal Council</b>	Hammond Dick Tribal Chief P.O. Box 530 Watson Lake, Y.T. Y0A 1C0	George Miller General Manager	536-2805 536-2806 FAX #
<b>Kluane</b>	Joe Johnson Mile 1093, A. Hwy. Burwash Landing, Y.T. Y0B 1H0		841-4274 841-5900 FAX #
<b>Kwanlin Dun</b>	Lena Rose Johns Box 1217 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5A5	Bonnie Hurlock Band Administrator	667-6465 668-5057 FAX #
<b>Liard River</b>	Ann Bayne Box 328 Watson Lake, Y.T. Y0A 1C0 Dixon Lutz Hereditary Chief	Fran Byers	536-2131 536-2332 FAX #
<b>Liard Reserve #3</b>	Annie Pete, Deputy Chief Box 489 Watson Lake, Y.T. Y0A 1C0 Dixon Lutz Hereditary Chief	Annie Peters	(604) 779-3161 779-3371 FAX #



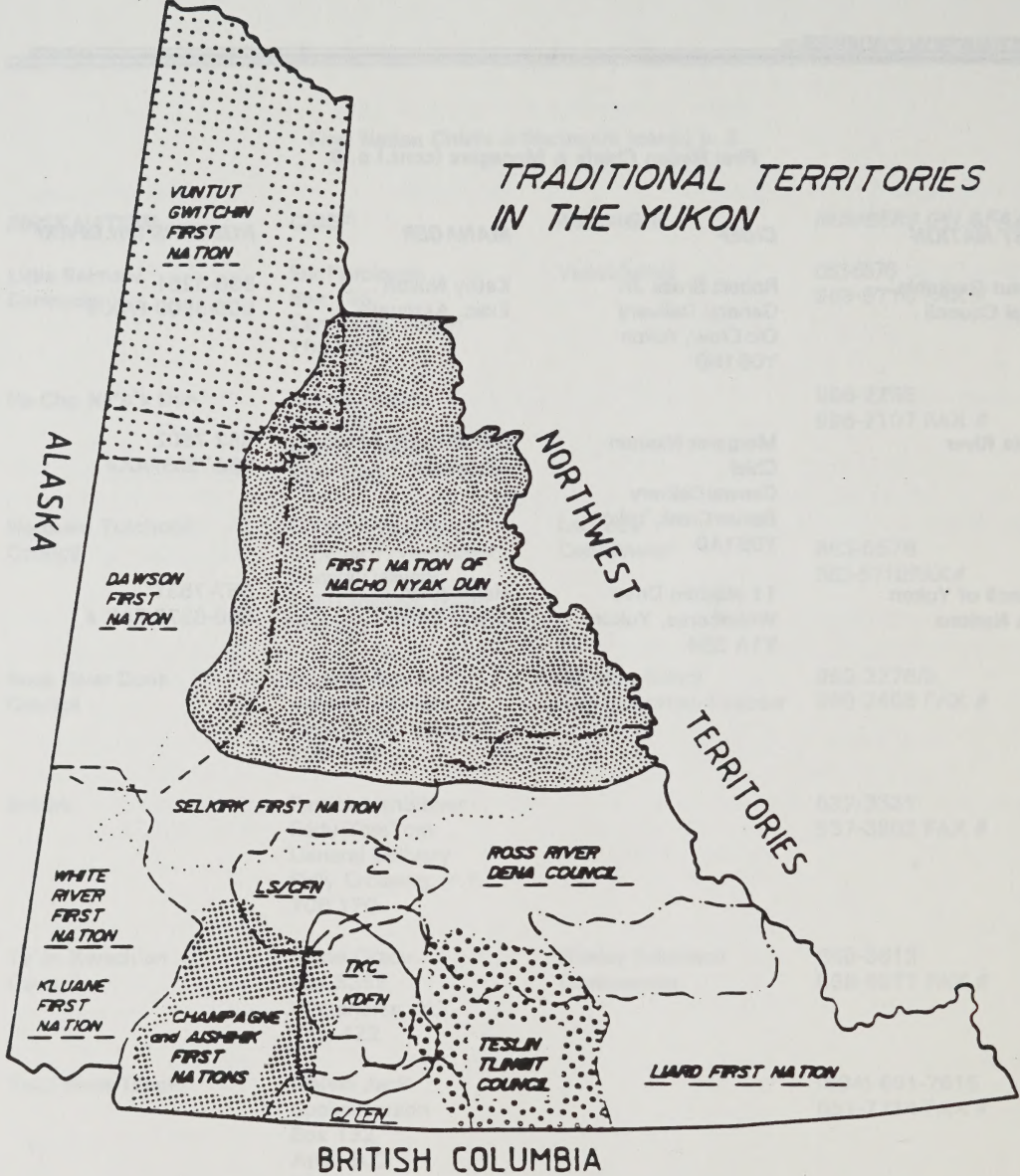
## First Nation Chiefs &amp; Managers (cont.) p. 2

<b>FIRST NATION</b>	<b>CHIEF</b>	<b>MANAGER</b>	<b>NUMBERS (PH.&amp;FAX)</b>
<b>Little Salmon/ Carmacks</b>	Eric Fairclough Box 135 Carmacks, Yukon Y0B 1C0	Viola Mullett	863-5576 863-5710 FAX #
<b>Na-Cho Ny'a'k Dun</b>	Robert Hager Box 220 Mayo, Yukon Y0B 1M0		996-2265 996-2107 FAX #
<b>Northern Tutchone Council</b>	Chiefs E.Fairclough R.Hager/P.VanBibber General Delivery Pelly Crossing, Yukon Y0B 1P0	Lois Joe Coordinator	863-5576 863-5710 FAX #
<b>Ross River Dena Council</b>	Norman Sterriah General Delivery Ross River, Yukon Y0B 1P0	Dorothy Smith Administrative Director	969-2278/9 969-2405 FAX #
<b>Selkirk</b>	Patrick VanBibber Eddy TomTom General Delivery Pelly Crossing, Y.T. Y0B 1P0		537-3331 537-3902 FAX #
<b>Ta'an Kwach'an Council</b>	Glenn Grady Box 5359 Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 4Z2	Shirley Adamson Chairperson	668-3613 668-6577 FAX #
<b>Taku River Tlingit</b>	Melvin Jack Spokesperson Box 132 Atlin, B.C. V0W 1A0		(604) 651-7615 651-7714 FAX #
<b>Teslin Tlingit Council</b>	David Keenan Chief Executive General Delivery Teslin, Yukon Y0A 1B0	Doug Hogan Jr. Executive Assistant	390-2532 390-2204 FAX #
<b>Tr'on dek Hwech'in</b>	Steve Taylor Box 599 Dawson City, Y.T. Y0B 1G0	Diane Huddle	993-5385 993-5753 FAX #

**First Nation Chiefs & Managers (cont.) p. 3**

<b>FIRST NATION</b>	<b>CHIEF</b>	<b>MANAGER</b>	<b>NUMBERS (PH.&amp;FAX)</b>
<b>Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council</b>	Robert Bruce Jr. General Delivery Old Crow, Yukon Y0B1N0	Kathy Nukon Exec. Assistant	966-3261 966-3800 FAX #
<b>White River</b>	Margaret Nieman Chief General Delivery Beaver Creek, Yukon Y0B1A0	Gartshore & Assoc. A/Manager	862-7802 862-7806 FAX #
<b>Council of Yukon First Nations</b>	11 Nisutlin Drive Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3S4	Harry Allen Grand Chief	667-7631 668-6577 FAX #

# TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES IN THE YUKON



## KEY TO MAP NAMES:

- |        |                                     |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| C/TFN  | Carcross/Tagish First Nations       |
| KDFN   | Kwanlin Dun First Nation            |
| LS/CFN | Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation |
| TKC    | Ta'an Kwach'an Council              |



**CARCROSS/TAGISH FIRST NATIONS**  
*Carcross, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

Box 130  
Carcross, Yukon  
Y0B 1B0  
Phone No.: (403) 821-4251  
Fax No.: (403) 821-4802

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Tagish and Tlingit

**GENERAL**

The Carcross area was originally inhabited by the Tagish people, who camped at the site of the present village to hunt caribou. As they began trading and inter-marrying with the coastal Tlingit people, they adopted the Tlingit way of life. Today, the First Nation is representative of both its Tagish and Tlingit heritage, and attempts are being made to maintain language and cultural traditions.

Carcross developed as a stop-over place for gold-rush stampeders at the turn of the century. It is located at the end of Bennett Lake, where the White Pass and Yukon Railway established a station to pick up miners and equipment before travelling to Whitehorse or Skagway.

A residential school was established in 1901 by a missionary, Bishop Bompas. The last school, **Choutla Residential School**, was built in 1956 by the Canadian government after a 1939 fire destroyed the church school. Although government-financed after that time, the Anglican Church continued their operation of the school, and it was attended by aboriginal students from all over the Yukon. The school closed in the 1960's, but continued to be in use until October 1993, when it was demolished by the First Nations through a contract with DIAND in order to restore the land to its original state.

When the **White Pass and Yukon Route** railroad was discontinued in 1982, the South Klondike Highway became the lifeline of the community. It is possible that the railway, one of few narrow-gauges in the world, will once more extend to Carcross. At present, the railroad originates in Skagway, Alaska and ends in Bennett Lake, B.C.

The population of Carcross as of December 1994 was 421. The community is directly administered by the Yukon Government. In March 1992 a local planning committee composed of three native and three non-native community residents was elected to deal with community planning issues.

**LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

**QUORUM**

Chief (or Acting Chief) and two Councillors

**METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. Franchise is extended to First Nation members at the age of 16. The last election was held in April 1992. The term for Chief and Council is 4 years.

**MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The membership code is under First Nation control. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nations' office.

**LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Negotiations of the Final and Self Government Agreements pursuant to the Umbrella Final Agreement have not yet commenced.

**GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Willard Phelps, Minister of Health and Social Services, Yukon Party, Ross River/Southern Lakes Riding

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. distributes power from the Whitehorse Dam.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The all-weather South Klondike Highway (Skagway Road) provides access to Carcross.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fully equipped, with a chief and 10 volunteers. Water is supplied by reservoirs and wells.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, one corporal, two constables and various vehicles.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week

**BANKS:** Banking is done in Whitehorse

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** One 24-room hotel (rooms are not in service), a service station, a restaurant, and a general store are open year round.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

Administration Building    2  
Administration Annex  
Daycare Centre  
Cultural Centre                2  
Community Hall  
Garage  
77 Houses

**FIRST NATION LAND**

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 64.75 Ha. on the south shore of Nares Lake

LAND SET ASIDE: 179.261 Ha. in and around Carcross and Tagish

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 1 parcel and 50 lots

**POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 -- Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	57
On Reserve	122
Off Reserve	<u>266</u>
Total	445

242 First Nations members have been reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The First Nations employ members and non-natives in their offices and in both First Nations-run or private businesses. Most non-First Nation employment is seasonal.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION**

**FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS**

- \* Social Development
- \* Education - Elementary/Secondary
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service



## **Social Development**

The First Nations receive and administer funds to supply social assistance to status members residing in a community. They have administered their social assistance program for the last decade. The program includes In-home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic and Special Needs. First Nations' members living in Whitehorse are funded directly through the Whitehorse office of Indian and Inuit Affairs.

## **Education**

First Nation members attend the **Carcross School** from kindergarten to grade nine and high school in Whitehorse.

The Department funds the Carcross/Tagish First Nations directly for a position of Community Education Liaison Co-ordinator and for other related costs and services. First Nation members with registered status may apply for post-secondary educational support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building.

## **Economic Development**

The Carcross/Tagish First Nations receive funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs are administered to provide for economic development enterprises, as well as subsistence, elders' fuel, and traditional and cultural activities. Funding is also obtained from other federal or territorial government agencies.

## **Capital**

The Carcross/Tagish First Nations provide housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Contracts for construction of houses are usually let to the citizens of the First Nations. For example, in the winter of 1992-93, a contract awarded to a First Nations' member resulted in the building of 15 housing units. Capital funding is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs and CMHC. The funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

## **First Nation Government**

Indian and Inuit Affairs' funding is provided to the First Nations' Council to provide a central administrative base.

### **Community Infrastructure**

The Carcross/Tagish First Nations receive funding from Indian and Inuit Affairs for the maintenance of roads and community buildings, as well as for municipal and fire protection services.

In 1992, a sewage eduction truck valued at about \$100,000 was acquired by the First Nations under Canada's Green Plan. The sanitation system also includes out-houses, holding tanks (pumped out regularly) and a septic system for houses in the town. Garbage disposal is done by a contractor.





**CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS**  
*Haines Junction, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

Box 5309  
Haines Junction, Yukon  
Y0B 1L0  
Phone No.: (403) 634-2288 or 668-6877  
Fax No.: (403) 634-2108  
or 667-6303

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Southern Tutchone of Athapaskan descent, Tlingit

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Southern Tutchone Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

Haines Junction is the first major community northwest of Whitehorse on the Alaska Highway. It is Parks Canada's administrative headquarters for Kluane National Park, a World Heritage Site.

In the past, Haines Junction was used by aboriginal people as a temporary staging area on trapping, hunting and fishing trips. The Southern Tutchone name for the area is **Dakwakada**, meaning "a high cache," which was erected near the present weigh scale station to store food and furs while aboriginal people were hunting and fishing in the area.

The area was a trade route for the coastal Tlingit and Chilkat Indians of Haines, Alaska who traded with the interior Indians from Dalton Post to Ft. Selkirk. The Southern Tutchone acted as intermediaries in trade between coastal and interior Indians. Many of these trails were used as guides for the Haines and Alaska Highways. Pioneer Jack Dalton also used the trade route which later became known as the **Dalton Trail** for his famous cattle drive to Dawson City.

After the building of the Alaska and Haines Highways, a maintenance camp was built at their junction. A small school was included in the camp for the children of highway workers. The commercial potential of the area was recognized by John and Sally Backe who built the first cafe and motel in the area. The community now has several tourist accommodations and services.

Haines Junction was predominantly a non-aboriginal community until The Department of Indian Affairs built houses for the members of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations just east of the town. Most of the homes for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' members were built at Haines Junction and Champagne, until a community development plan included Canyon Creek as another centre for building homes. Some residents now commute from Canyon Creek to Haines Junction for work and business. Other settlements or camps within the area include: Nesketaheen, Klukshu, Champagne, Hutchi Lake, Aishihik Lake, Kusawa Lake, Kluane Lake and Kloo Lake. The First Nations constructed housing units near the Takhini River on the Alaska Highway in 1993-94.

As of December 1994, the population of Haines Junction was 796. Resident First Nations' members make up approximately 25% of the population.

### **LEADERSHIP**

For First Nations' administration purposes, the two First Nations of Champagne and Aishihik joined in 1970 and a single Chief was elected.

The First Nations' leadership is composed of a Chief and six Councillors.

### **QUORUM**

Chief and three Councillors

### **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election, extending franchise to First Nations members 16 years of age and older. The Chief and Council are elected for a four-year term. The last election was held in November of 1994. One First Nations Council member is elected to represent the communities of Haines Junction, Champagne, Aishihik/Canyon, Klukshu, Kloo Lake and Whitehorse. One elder and one youth representative sit on Council.

### **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The membership code is under First Nation control and governed by the First Nation constitution. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nations' offices.

### **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations were the first to ratify their First Nation Final Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements. The Agreements were officially signed in Whitehorse by Paul Birckel, Chief of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader on May 29, 1993. Legislation became effective on February 14, 1995.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

**M.L.A.:** The Honourable Bill Brewster, Deputy Government Leader and Minister of Renewable Resources, Yukon Party, Kluane Riding

### **TRAINING/EDUCATION**

The First Nations are directing their attention to obtaining programs to assist members in meeting the administrative demands resulting from land claim settlements.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Long-term employment for members living in Whitehorse will be one of the main objectives of the First Nation in the coming years.

### **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The First Nations are increasing their efforts to meet the need for programs on alcohol, drug abuse and suicide prevention; recently, a wilderness treatment centre has been developed at Aishihik Lake. The First Nations are researching the establishment of a family violence prevention program.

### **CHILD WELFARE**

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations have an agreement with the Yukon Territorial Government to administer their child welfare program under the Children's Act.

### **MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

The First Nations are developing management training programs to enhance the skills of their staff at the First Nations office, and to meet the need for land claims administrative personnel.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Energy Corporation operates the dam at Aishihik Lake. There is a diesel generator for back-up.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** All weather road, Alaska and Haines Highways.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The fire department located at Canyon Creek has a joint agreement with the Village of Haines Junction's fire department to supply fire and ambulance services to the residents. First Aid and CPR are taught to fire fighters.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, with one corporal and two constables, cars and a boat.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**BANK:** An agent operates a Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Monday to Friday, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** The First Nations have a laundromat and showers to service their members and the public.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

Administration Building  
Carpentry Shop  
Garage  
Warehouse  
Central Heating Plant  
Community Building  
Youth Centre  
Community Hall  
Fire Hall  
104 Houses  
Aishihik Treatment Centre

**FIRST NATION LAND\***

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: None.

LAND SET ASIDE: None - Land claims settlement - transferred.

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: None

\*(See Highlights of Final Agreement in Appendix)

**POPULATION FIGURES - AISHIHIK**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 (STATUS ONLY)**

On Crown land	80
On Reserve	3
Off Reserve	<u>48</u>
Total	131

25 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 31, 1994.

**POPULATION FIGURES - CHAMPAGNE**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 (STATUS ONLY)**

On Crown land	251
On Reserve	9
Off Reserve	<u>262</u>
Total	522

180 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 31, 1994.



## **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The First Nations employ many of their members through their company, Champagne Aishihik Enterprises Ltd. There is concern about the lack of employment and service access for their members in Whitehorse.

## **PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

*under the FINANCIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT negotiated in Final Agreements*

- \* Education
- \* Capital
- \* Social Development
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service
- \* Economic Development
- \* First Nation Government

### **Education**

Students can attend grades K-12 at the **St. Elias Community School**. The northern Alaska Highway communities also send high school students to Haines Junction for grades 10-12. Some students attend high school in Whitehorse.

Under their Financial Transfer Agreement, the First Nations are funded for a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) position and other related costs and services. First Nations' members may apply for Post-Secondary education assistance through the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council of Yukon First Nations' building on Nisutlin Drive in Whitehorse.

### **Capital**

Capital funding for Canada's Green Plan Initiative and Bill C-31 Housing Program is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs for self-governing First Nations. Canada has negotiated and signed Financial Transfer Agreements with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations for all other capital resources.

### **Social Development**

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations administer funds for social assistance through the Financial Transfer Agreement (FTA) negotiated with the Government of Canada. The agreement allows for one full-time and one part-time social administrator. The program includes Basic Needs, Special Needs and Elders' Fuel programs. The First Nations have administered their own social assistance program for the last decade

## **Economic Development**

Canada has negotiated and signed Financial Transfer Agreements with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. The FTA applies to the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS) and provides for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nations' members through community-designed and administered programs.

The First Nations were operating under a five-year Alternate Funding Arrangement (AFA), ending in 1993. Champagne and Aishihik were the first in the north to have their programs funded this way.

The commercial interests of the First Nations are managed by Taga Ku Corporation and Champagne Aishihik Enterprises Ltd.

## **First Nation Government**

Through the Financial Transfer Agreement negotiated under their Final Agreement, Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nations Council to administer its responsibilities to the First Nations' membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The First Nations have a constitution which deals with matters of membership, election of Chief and Council, general reporting procedures of the First Nation Council and staff to its general membership, and other functions, activities and responsibilities to fulfil the First Nations' objectives.

The Chief and Council have portfolios in the following areas:

### **FIRST NATION AFFAIRS/POLITICAL:**

First Nation Affairs, Land Claims  
Public Relations

### **SOCIAL PROGRAMS:**

Recreation, Child Care  
Social Development  
Family Support  
Community Health  
Drug and Alcohol Awareness

### **ADMINISTRATION/GENERAL WORKS:**

Housing, First Nation Equipment  
Wood program  
Shop Maintenance  
Labour Relations

### **EDUCATION**

### **RENEWABLE RESOURCES:**

All matters dealing with hunting, trapping, fishing, forestry and parks.

### **ELDERS' PROGRAM:**

All programs and concerns regarding elders.

The councillors are also responsible for the areas that elected them.

### **Community Infrastructure**

As part of the Self Government/Land Claims Agreements, Canada has negotiated and signed a Financial Transfer Agreement with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations for the delivery of community infrastructure services such as road maintenance, community buildings, and municipal and fire protection services.

The First Nation delivers chlorinated well-water by truck to residents. Some First Nations' residents receive piped water from the town system.

Sewage is piped for lagoon purification, then discharged into the Dezadeash River. Some of the First Nations' homes have septic tanks. The First Nation looks after garbage collection for its members. Garbage is collected by truck, and is disposed of in a Y.T.G. approved open dump site.

### **LEGAL STATUS OF COMMUNITY**

Haines Junction is incorporated under the Municipal Act as a village with an elected council on which some First Nation members sit. The First Nation is primarily located east of the village of Haines Junction on Lot 30.





**DEASE RIVER FIRST NATION**  
***Good Hope Lake, B.C.***

**ADDRESS:**

General Delivery  
Good Hope Lake, B.C.  
VOC 2Z0  
Phone No.: (604) 239-3000  
Fax No.: (604) 239-3003

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska and Tahltan

**POLITICAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

The original inhabitants of the area were the Kaska Indians from the northern areas and the Tahltans from the south and west. The current community was a camp area used during the migration of the bands in search of seasonal food sources.

The community of Good Hope Lake is a small, aboriginal settlement on the Stewart-Cassiar Highway, in the remote north-central part of British Columbia.

When the Cassiar Mine closed in 1992, Good Hope Lake residents became anxious about the maintenance of essential services, and began to lobby both the provincial and federal governments for help. The two governments have been working with First Nation people to help establish such services as emergency medical and evacuation measures.

Traffic along the highway has been growing annually; it is hoped that tourism will become a major part of the local economy.

The Dease River First Nation was originally part of the Liard River First Nation, but acquired separate status under DIAND in 1988. Although located in B.C., the First Nation is served through the Yukon Region of Indian and Northern Affairs.

**LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and three Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. The First Nation Council is elected every two years by the general membership. The last election was held in July of 1993. There is a move towards a more traditional hereditary/custom system.

## **QUORUM**

Three members of Council

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Dease River First Nation does not have a membership code at present.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Dease River First Nation is not part of the Council for Yukon Indians Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. It is expected that Dease River First Nation will negotiate their Land Claims and Self Government agreements through the B.C. Treaty Commission, established in September of 1992.

The First Nation has completed talks with the B.C. provincial government regarding allocation of parcels of land with full reserve status. These lands, about 160 hectares, are partial repayment for use of existing reserve land as a highway thoroughfare.

## **GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Mike Scott, Reform, Skeena Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Two diesel generators supply the community with power.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The chip-sealed all-weather Cassiar Highway bisects the community. Watson Lake is 140 km north, and the former Cassiar mine and town is 30 km south of Good Hope Lake. There are no services left in Cassiar.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The First Nation has purchased a fire truck with funding from Indian and Inuit Affairs. First Nation members have received training in firefighting and volunteer their service in fire protection.

**POLICE:** The nearest RCMP detachment is in Dease Lake.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked three times a week to Good Hope Lake.

**BANK:** None - the nearest bank is in Watson Lake.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Service station and grocery store in Good Hope Lake, campground nearby at Boya Lake Provincial Park.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building  
Carpentry Shop  
Garage  
Store  
Warehouse  
School  
Fire Hall  
Community Hall  
School - Adult Education  
42 Houses

### **POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	19
On Reserve	52
Off Reserve	<u>58</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>

5 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The Dease River First Nation has limited access to economic opportunities due to its geographic isolation - the larger centres of Whitehorse, Yukon and Terrace, B.C. are both more than 500 km away.

Tourism service industry and the First Nation office offer some employment. Most First Nation members have a traditional subsistence lifestyle. About 10 members are employed through the First Nation office, gas station, store, and local school.

### **FIRST NATION LANDS**

Dease River First Nation has negotiated a specific claim which sets out approximately 400 acres of reserve land. All agreements with the provincial and federal government are complete as well as the necessary surveys.

### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 160 Ha. in and around Good Hope Lake  
LAND SET ASIDE: Approx. 1 Ha. in and around Good Hope Lake  
PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 5  
RESERVES: 1

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION  
*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services

**Social Development**

The Dease River First Nation administers social assistance to its members. This includes In-Home Adult Care, Basic and Special Needs, and Elders' Fuel. The Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs has occasionally added administration cost reimbursements.

**Education**

The B.C. Government transferred control of the former Stikine District #87 school adjacent to the old highway camp to the First Nation. This facility includes three large classrooms, an auditorium, and a library/home economics room. With funding from DIAND, the Dease River Band Council renovated and upgraded this facility, and the school opened for classes in September 1992.

Students from kindergarten to grade twelve are enrolled in the school. Funding was also provided by DIAND for the renovation of a teacherage.

The First Nation currently employs a full-time Principal/teacher and an additional full-time teacher. The school also has its own Administrator and a School Committee of 4 community residents.

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for costs associated with the Band-operated school and for the position of Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC). First Nation members may apply for post-secondary educational support from the First Nations' Education Program in the Council of Yukon First Nations' building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

**Economic Development**

There are two operating firms in Good Hope Lake, both in the service/tourism sector: a gas station/garage and a grocery store - **Good Hope Lake Services**. Most other services were offered in Cassiar before the mine closed in mid-1992. With traffic along the highway growing annually, it is hoped that tourism will become a major contributor to the local economy.



The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs are administered to provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.

### **Capital**

The Dease River First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Program Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Indian and Inuit Affairs' Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The First Nation is continuing to develop the First Nation Council, its policies and guidelines, and to organize its staff. The Council works as a group to establish policies for the First Nation.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Dease River First Nation receives contributions for municipal and fire protection services, roads and electrical power.

Water for the village is supplied by three wells. Houses near the wells are on a direct pipe system while those further away receive water deliveries by truck. The sanitation system includes out-houses, septic tanks and leaching pits. Garbage is picked-up twice weekly by the First Nation's truck and taken to the community dump.



**KLUANE FIRST NATION**  
***Burwash Landing, Yukon***

**ADDRESS:**

Mile 1093 Alaska Highway  
Burwash Landing, Yukon  
Y0B 1H0  
Phone No.: (403) 841-4274  
Fax No.: (403) 841-5900

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Southern Tutchone of Athapaskan descent, Northern Tutchone.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Southern Tutchone Tribal Council (STTC)

**GENERAL**

The Shakwak Valley has been inhabited for over 10,000 years, and is the homeland of the Southern Tutchone people who had stop-over camps throughout the area during the aboriginal seasonal migration in search of food.

Two Jacquot brothers, Louie and Gene, built a trading post at Burwash Landing in 1904. Most of the native people used this area for a summer stop, but after the Jacquots built some cabins in the area, they moved closer to the post and began to lead a more stationary life-style.

The construction of the Alaska Highway in 1942 led Indian and Inuit Affairs to make Burwash Landing the administrative centre for First Nations in the Kluane area. In 1990 the band split into two: the White River First Nation, and the Kluane First Nation.

The population of Burwash Landing as of December 1994 was 76. The community is mainly aboriginal. The settlement is administered directly by the Yukon Territorial Government.

**LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and two Councillors at large, an elder councillor and a youth councillor.

## **QUORUM**

Any three members of Council

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. All members living in Yukon who are age 16 and over are eligible to vote in the Kluane Peoples Assembly. The term for Chief and Council is two years. The last election was held in August 1994.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Kluane First Nation has developed a membership code which is in their constitution. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Self-government negotiations began in 1993; the First Nation will begin full negotiations for final land claim and self-government agreements in late 1995.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Bill Brewster, Deputy Government Leader and Minister of Renewable Resources, Yukon Party, Kluane Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Power is supplied by diesel generators.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The paved, all-weather Alaska Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Burwash Landing has a fire chief, six volunteer fire fighters, a pumper truck and water tanks.

**POLICE:** The Burwash Landing area is served by the Haines Junction detachment 100 km away (one corporal, one constable and one native special constable).

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is delivered twice a week.

**BANKS:** There is no banking service in Burwash Landing.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Burwash Landing: resort/hotel, restaurant, gas station.



**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

Garage  
Warehouse 4  
Community Centre  
Washroom  
Recycling Building  
Administration Building  
Houses 39

**POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	72
On Reserve	0
Off Reserve	<u>81</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>

111 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994. Of the First Nation members living off-reserve, most reside in Whitehorse.

**FIRST NATION LAND**

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: None

LAND SET ASIDE: 312.125 Ha. in and around Burwash Landing.

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 10 parcels and 21 lots

RESERVES: None

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The economic base is primarily subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping which supplies about 80% of the food for Burwash Landing residents. Most residents are employed seasonally in tourism or full-time through the First Nation office.

Many members have left the community to find work elsewhere.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION**

**FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS**

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services

## **Social Development**

The Kluane First Nation receives and administers funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The First Nation has administered its own social programs for over a decade. These programs include In-home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic and Special Needs.

## **Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation directly for school supplies and the services of a part-time Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC). Students at Burwash Landing are bussed to the **Destruction Bay School**, which serves grades kindergarten to 8. High school students may attend in Haines Junction or Whitehorse.

Students must move to Haines Junction or Whitehorse to complete their education. First Nation members with registered status may apply for post-secondary educational support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building.

## **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funding provides for subsistence, elders' traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises.

As part of the Kluane First Nation's plans for economic development, it has identified the necessity to access training and educational needs, and to identify funding sources.

The First Nation operates some businesses, including a small general store for its members' use, and a cottage industry which produces jam.

The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

## **Capital**

The Kluane First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets, as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

## **First Nation Government**

First Nation Band Support Funding is provided to the Council to administer its responsibilities to First Nation membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The Council has portfolios in the following areas:

Executive Director and Finance

Renewable Resources

Elders' Programs

Social Development

Economic Development/Capital Projects/Infrastructure

## **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Kluane First Nation receives funding for maintenance of roads and community buildings, as well as for municipal and fire protection services.

At Burwash Landing, there are nine wells supplied by the waters of Half-breed Creek and Kluane Lake. Water is delivered by truck.

The sanitation system is a combination of septic fields and holding tanks. Tanks are emptied regularly; septic fields are pumped out as needed.





**KWANLIN DUN FIRST NATION\***  
*Whitehorse, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

Box 1217  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 5A5  
Phone No.: (403) 667-6465  
Fax No.: (403) 668-5057

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Southern and Northern Tutchone, some Tagish. \*The First Nation is made up of two main groups: Ta'an Kwach'an from the north and Kwanlin Dun from the south.

**GENERAL**

Before the establishment of Whitehorse as a central settlement, aboriginal people occupied, harvested, and used as a main meeting place the area now known as Whitehorse. While the traditional members of the Kwanlin Dun were based in the Marsh Lake areas, the Ta'an Kwach'an people were concentrated more along southern Lake Laberge, and along the Yukon River as far north as Hootalinqua.

The non-aboriginal community of Whitehorse developed because of its location at the start of the navigable waters on the Yukon River upstream from Dawson City. When the White Pass and Yukon Route sternwheelers plied the Yukon River in the first half of the century, aboriginal people were employed to cut fuelwood for the boats' boilers. This employment led to the establishment of a small settlement on the east bank of the Yukon River, which in turn attracted more aboriginal people to the area.

In 1956, the department amalgamated the two Whitehorse-area First Nations under the title of Whitehorse Indian Band, which had formerly been composed of an affiliation of traditional Kwanlin Dun members and other First Nations. The Whitehorse Indian Band was the predecessor to the current Kwanlin Dun First Nation. Since that time, departmental programs for the combined band have been administered through the Kwanlin Dun First Nation offices. (SEE : Ta'an Kwach'an Council on page 77.)

The city has experienced a series of booms and busts since the gold rush of 1898, mainly related to mining and highway construction activities. In 1953, the Yukon Territorial Government office moved to Whitehorse from Dawson City. Y.T.G. has since then become the largest employer in the area, lending a fair amount of stability to the economy. In recent years, tourism has grown at a rapid pace to become a major factor in the local economy.

Today Whitehorse has a population of 22,911 people according to December 1994 statistics.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief (or Deputy Chief) and four Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. Franchise is extended to First Nation members 16 years of age and over. Elections for Chief and Council are held every four years. The last election was in March 1993.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation has received funding to establish a membership code but has not yet implemented a code.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Kwanlin Dun is currently negotiating Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements.

Ta'an Kwach'an has been negotiating its Land Claims Settlement separately since 1988, and is presently involved in active negotiations for Land Claims and Self Government Agreements.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Piers MacDonald, NDP, MacIntyre-Takhini Riding and Leader of the Official Opposition.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Whitehorse Rapids Electrical Dam supplies power to all residences within city limits.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** All-weather Alaska Highway, Whitehorse International Airport. All-weather Klondike Highway to Skagway, Alaska.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The First Nation is serviced by the City's fire department which has 20 permanent fire fighters, Chief and Deputy, approx. 15 volunteers at two fully equipped firehalls - downtown Whitehorse, and Takhini. All fire fighters are trained in rescue and emergency techniques.

## **FIRST NATION PROFILES**

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**POLICE:** RCMP headquarters with 1 staff sergeant, 2 sergeants, 5 corporals, 28 constables, and 4 special constables, equipped with 12 vehicles, 2 boats and 2 snowmobiles and 2 trailers. The Division's aircraft section consists of 1 staff sergeant, 1 sergeant, 1 mechanic, and 1 aircraft (DeHavilland twin otter). The aircraft section is based in Whitehorse.

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation receives funds from the Solicitor General for its own crime prevention force of 2 constables from RCMP headquarters as well as 1 officer.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in or flown-in and is delivered daily.

**BANKS:** The Whitehorse area is served by five major Canadian chartered banks. Automatic banking machines are also available.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** All essential services are provided in the Whitehorse area. The McIntyre Subdivision is serviced by the City of Whitehorse's water and sewage systems. Maintenance of roads is shared with the City of Whitehorse. There is a pumphouse located at Lake Laberge to supply fresh water.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building	
Administration Building (Mt. Mac)	
Carpenter Shop	2
Daycare	
Cultural Centre	
Healing Centre	
Adult Education Centre	
Workshop	2
Garage	2
Warehouse	3
237 Houses	

### **POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Reserve	49
Off Reserve	296
On Crown Land	<u>784</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1129</b>

376 members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

### **FIRST NATION LAND**

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LANDS: 129.504 Ha. at the lower end of Lake Laberge.

LAND SET ASIDE: 324.34 Ha. in and around City of Whitehorse, Lake Laberge, and Marsh Lake

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 27 parcels + 12 + (Lots 327-671 & 672-901)

RESERVE: 1

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION*****FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Economic Development
- \* Education
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government/Band Support
- \* Policing
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services O & M

**Social Development**

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation receives and administers funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. They have administered their own social program for over 10 years, including In-Home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, Basic Needs and Special Needs.

**Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funding provides for subsistence, elders' traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.

**Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the Kwanlin Dun First Nation directly for related costs and services and for Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) positions. Students attend public schools in Whitehorse or Yukon College.

Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

**Capital**



The Kwanlin Dun First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of them.

### **First Nation Government/Band Support**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to carry out its responsibilities to its membership and to provide a central base for administration.

The Political leadership is organized on the portfolio system. Chief and Councillors have responsibilities for various areas, including:

Land Claims, Finance and Communications.

Recreation, Education, Rural Concerns.

Policing, Health, and Recreation.

Social/Health, Economic Development, and Land Claims.

Education, Policing, and Rural Concerns.

Housing, Economic Development, and Communications.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Kwanlin Dun First Nation receives funding for roads and community buildings, as well as for municipal and fire protection services.

Garbage collection is done by the First Nation for its members.



**LIARD RIVER FIRST NATION\***  
***Watson Lake, Yukon***

\* the legal name for this First Nation is "Liard River Band"

**ADDRESS:**

Box 328  
Watson Lake, Yukon  
Y0A 1C0  
Phone No.: (403) 536-2131  
Fax No.: (403) 536-2332

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska of Athapaskan descent

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Kaska Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

The original people of the area, the Kaska-Dena, were seasonal migrants travelling within their established territory hunting and gathering food supplies. Their territory included the Upper Liard, Frances, and Highland rivers and extended into the Upper Pelly drainage in the north to the Dease River in the southwest.

As European explorers crossed the eastern mountains into Kaska lands, trade quickly developed. The establishment of trading posts in the 1800s altered the migration patterns of aboriginals who began to settle nearby. Lower Post was the main settlement, although Watson Lake and Upper Liard soon became important centres.

In 1961, the five Kaska First Nations in the area were amalgamated into the Liard River First Nation and a central settlement and administrative base was established in Upper Liard. In 1985, it was decided by referendum that the First Nation should break into three independent groups. Although the Dease River First Nation gained full status as a separate First Nation in 1988, the Liard Reserve #3 group has not yet gained formal separate status from the Liard River First Nation.

Shortly after the Second World War, the Department of Indian Affairs began building central settlements for aboriginal people. Upper Liard was established as the main community for the Liard River First Nation.

Watson Lake has since become the regional service and business centre for the area, with forestry and energy exploration adding to the economic growth. The lead-zinc mine at nearby Sa Dena Hes opened in 1991 and employed many aboriginal people until its closure in 1993. In 1994, the mine was bought by Cominco and Teck Corp. and it is now called Kudz ze Kayah project.

Watson Lake is an incorporated town with a December 1994 population of 1,749. Many First Nation members live within Watson Lake town limits, or on the outskirts of the town in the communities of Two-mile and Two and a Half Mile villages.

Upper Liard, an unincorporated village, has a total population of about 130. Over 85 residents are First Nation members.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The Liard River First Nation's leadership is made up of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief and two Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. Members of the Liard River First Nation elected their first-ever elected Chief and Council in October 1992. Prior to that, the band had a hereditary chief system, under which the Deputy Chief and Councillors were appointed. The position of hereditary chief remains. The Chief can vote on both the Liard River First Nation and Liard Reserve #3 Councils.

An election will be held November 27, 1995 for a chief, a deputy chief and six councillors.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Liard River First Nation has received funding to develop a membership code, but to date has not implemented one.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Negotiations of the Final Land Claims and Self Government Agreements pursuant to the Umbrella Final Agreement have not yet commenced.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable John Devries, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. distributes power from the diesel generating plant in Watson Lake.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The paved all-weather Alaska Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Watson Lake has a fire chief, 15 volunteers, equipment and a 4,546-litre water tank. Smaller communities have fire extinguishers and shovel and axe caches.

**POLICE:** The Watson Lake RCMP detachment has one sergeant, one corporal, five constables and one native special constable. The detachment serves all surrounding communities.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked or flown in three times a week.

**BANKS:** The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce operates a branch in Watson Lake.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Most facilities are available in Watson Lake, including a women's transition home. The Upper Liard Resort in Upper Liard has six rooms, a lounge, cafe and native crafts store.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Wash-house 2  
Community Building  
Community Hall  
Administration Building  
Garage  
Warehouse 2  
Community Building 2  
103 Houses

**POPULATION FIGURES:**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Reserve	141
Off Reserve	401
On Crown Land	<u>300</u>
Total	<b>842</b>

180 of the above members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994. The population figures include the Liard Reserve #3 membership in Lower Post, B.C.

## **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Employment opportunities are fairly limited, due to the small number of available jobs and a lack of training or experience on the part of those seeking employment. Nearby Watson Lake offers more chance of employment, causing some migration away from traditional First Nation lands.

## **FIRST NATION LANDS**

### ***ACREAGE AND STATUS***

LAND SET ASIDE: 328,2445 Ha. in and around Watson Lake.

RESERVE LAND: 1,432.5 Ha.

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 23

RESERVES: 9 - located in northern B.C.

## **PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

### ***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services

## **Social Development**

The Liard River First Nation receives and administers funds for social assistance. They also receive funds for a social services worker and they have administered their own social program for over a decade. The program includes In-Home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic Needs.

## **Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the Liard River First Nation for school supplies and for the position of a Community Education Liaison Co-ordinator (CELC). In previous years a group home was also financed, but it was closed when it was no longer required.

Students attend elementary and high school in Watson Lake. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

### **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funds provide for subsistence, elders' traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises.

The First Nation's goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.

### **Capital**

The Liard River First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets, as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and to provide a central administrative base.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Liard First Nation receives money for the operation of water, sewer and fire protection services, and for the maintenance of community buildings and roads. The Watson Lake Town Council previously received funding to administer municipal services to First Nation members living within town limits.

Water is delivered to the aboriginal communities by a private water-trucking company three times a week. In Upper Liard, 10 wells have been drilled for individual homes. Sewage facilities include septic holding tanks, sub-surface tile fields and out-houses. Newer houses use septic holding tanks exclusively because concerns were raised about water contamination from out-houses. Holding tank contents are pumped into the Watson Lake municipal sewer/lagoon system. The First Nation administers its own sanitation service.

Under Canada's Green Plan, DIAND provided funding for a treatment and storage building, an intake into the river, and a delivery truck to provide safe drinking water. The building is large enough to park and load the truck inside, an important feature during severe winter weather. The total project cost was about \$1 million.





**LIARD RESERVE #3**  
**Watson Lake, Yukon**

**ADDRESS:**

Box 489  
Watson Lake, Yukon  
YOA 1C0  
Phone No.: (604) 779-3161  
Fax No.: (604) 779-3371

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska of Athapaskan descent.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Kaska Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

The original inhabitants of the area, the Kaska-Dena, were seasonal migrants travelling within their established territory while hunting and gathering food supplies. Their territory included the upper Liard River area from the Cassiar mountains in the west, to the Simpson Mountains in the east.

As European explorers crossed into Kaska lands, trade quickly developed. Early trading posts, though short-lived, had the effect of changing the migrational patterns of the aboriginal people. As the trading posts became more permanent, the aboriginal population began to settle, first in Lower Post and later in Watson Lake. A major residential school was built in Lower Post in 1953 which served the southern Yukon and north-eastern B.C. until the 1970s.

Today, Lower Post is an unincorporated community on reserve land and is administered by the province of British Columbia on crown land.

**LEADERSHIP**

The leadership of Liard Reserve #3 is composed of a Deputy Chief (elected by the membership of the Liard River Band) and two Councillors

**QUORUM**

Chief and two council members

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

The Deputy Chief and Council are elected by the membership of the Liard River Band, of which Liard Reserve #3 is a part. Members of the Liard River Band voted in their first-ever elected Chief and Council in October 1992. Prior to that, the band had a hereditary chief system, under which the Deputy Chief and Councillors were appointed. At present, the hereditary chief is Dixon Lutz. He has a vote on both the Liard River Band and on the Liard Reserve #3 Councils.

An election will be held on November 27, 1995 for a chief, deputy chief and six councillors.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Liard Reserve #3 has not yet separated from the Liard First Nation, nor has it completed an independent membership document.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF GOVERNMENT**

Liard Reserve #3 is not covered by the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims settlement, but as a member of the Kaska Dena Council it will be negotiating settlements with the federal and B.C. governments.

## **GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Mike Scott, Reform, Skeena Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. operates a diesel generating plant in Watson Lake which services Lower Post.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** Paved all-weather Alaska Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Watson Lake supplies fire-fighting services, and Lower Post has its own Fire Department.

**POLICE:** The nearest RCMP detachment is in Watson Lake.

**BANKS:** Banking facilities are in Watson Lake.

**POST OFFICE:** There is no mail delivery to Lower Post; mail is trucked to Watson Lake three times a week.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** There are no public facilities in Lower Post because of the small size of the community.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

Administration Building  
Community Hall  
Garage  
Workshop  
Daycare Centre  
Warehouse  
Fire Hall  
Water Treatment Building  
43 Houses

**POPULATION FIGURES:***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1992 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Reserve	84
Off Reserve	0
On Crown Land	<u>65</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>

36 of the above members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December, 1993. It is difficult to acquire figures for Liard #3 as members are still included in the Liard River Band membership list.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Unemployment is high among First Nation members in Lower Post. The economy is subsistence-based, with some resource-based activity in the area. Employment is provided through the First Nation office, and programs create much of the remaining income.

**FIRST NATION LAND***ACREAGE AND STATUS*

RESERVE LANDS: Liard Reserve #3, established in 1961.

OTHER LANDS: Settled provincial Crown land at Lower Post.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS*

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services

## **Social Development**

Liard Reserve #3 receives and administers funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs to provide members residing on reserve with social assistance. Funding is provided for a social services worker. The First Nation has been administering its own social program, including Adult In-Home Care, Special Needs, and Basic Needs.

## **Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds Liard Reserve #3 for school supplies, bus costs, and for the position of Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC). All area students attend the local elementary school and travel to Watson Lake for secondary school education. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

## **Economic Development**

Liard Reserve #3 receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). This funding provides for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

Future prospects for local business ventures include a service complex (garage, store, and cafe), a small logging company, a road maintenance contract with the B.C. government, a hunting lodge and other tourism/service industry-related businesses.

## **Capital**

The Liard Reserve #3 provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets, as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

## **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and provide a central administrative base.



## **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. Although half of Liard Reserve #3 First Nation members live on provincial Crown land, Indian and Inuit Affairs also funds their infrastructure. The First Nation receives funds for community buildings, maintaining roads and for providing water, sewer, and fire protection services.

Most First Nation residences receive water from a First Nation-operated truck delivery system. There are also numerous private wells. Under Canada's Green Plan, DIAND provided funding for a treatment and storage building, an intake into the river, and a truck to deliver safe drinking water. The building is large enough to load or park the truck inside, an important feature during severe winter weather. The total project cost was about \$1 million.

The sewage system includes out-houses, tile fields and holding tanks. New houses have holding tanks only. The Liard River First Nation has been contracted to pump out the Liard Reserve #3's holding tanks. They are emptied into the Watson Lake lagoon treatment system.

The First Nation collects garbage for members and hauls it to a community landfill site.



**LITTLE SALMON/CARMACKS FIRST NATION**  
*Carmacks, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

Box 135  
Carmacks, Yukon  
Y0B 1C0  
Phone No.: (403) 863-5576  
Fax No.: (403) 863-5710

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone of Athabaskan descent.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone Council

**GENERAL**

Carmacks is located about 180 km north of Whitehorse on the Klondike Highway. Its December 1994 population was 470. Much of the population is aboriginal, as Carmacks has been a major centre for local First Nations for many centuries.

Before the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, the area was a campsite on a main trade route used by the coastal Tlingits and the northern and interior Kutchin. As non-natives poured into the area, a roadhouse was built by George Carmacks. A sternwheeler service port quickly followed.

Most of the area's native people migrated to town as river traffic ceased. They settled on land set aside for them on the north bank of the Yukon River, where the main community still stands. When the Klondike Highway was completed in 1950, Carmacks became a major service centre.

Quality coal was found in the area and several mines were in operation until 1981.

Today the economy is still largely service and tourism-oriented. Mining and exploration augment community revenues.

Carmacks became incorporated as a village in 1984, and is run by a municipal council on which First Nation members sometimes sit as elected members.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Any four members of council.

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system with franchise extended to First Nation members over the age of 16. The Chief and Council are elected for two-year terms. The last election was held in February 1993.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The First Nation does not have a membership code at present.

## **LAND CLAIMS**

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation is currently engaged in final and self-government agreement negotiations.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Danny Joe, NDP, Mayo-Tatchun Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** A transmission line runs from the Whitehorse dam, administered by Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. There is a local auxiliary diesel generator.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** Paved all-weather Klondike Highway. The unpaved all-weather Robert Campbell Highway is a secondary route.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire chief and 10 volunteers with pumper-truck, hoses, ladders, breathing apparatus, portable pump, two 6,700-litre water tanks - one in town and one in the native village.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment with a corporal, a constable and a native special constable.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**BANKS:** The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, is open once a week in the summer and twice a week in the winter.



**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Facilities of all types are available to the public, however there is no hospital in the area.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building  
NNDAP Office  
Workshop  
Garage        2  
Daycare Centre  
Youth Recreation Centre  
Community Hall  
Airport Lake Cultural Centre  
95 Houses

### **POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	239
On Reserve	0
Off Reserve	<u>211</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>

66 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Employment opportunities in the Carmacks area are limited, although during the summer employment opportunities are increased due to tourism and mining activities. The Little Salmon/Carmacks Administration Building houses many agencies or areas of the First Nation's concern, and thereby employs many members and residents.

### **FIRST NATION LANDS**

*ACREAGE AND STATUS*

RESERVE LAND: None.

LAND SET ASIDE: 488.989 Ha. in and around Carmacks area

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 2 parcels and 76 lots

RESERVES: None

### **PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS*

Social Development  
Education  
Economic Development  
Capital  
First Nation Government  
Community Infrastructure and Services

## Social Development

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation receives and administers funds for social assistance. The First Nation has administered its own social programs for a decade. This has included In-home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic Needs.

## Education

Students can attend grades K-12 at the **Tantalus School** in Carmacks. The higher grades were introduced in 1986, and since then the number of students graduating has increased noticeably.

The Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation directly for related costs and services, as well as the position of Community Education Liaison Coordinator. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building on Nisutlin Drive in Whitehorse.

## Economic Development

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funds provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for their members through community designed and administered programs.

Other revenue is supplied by other federal or territorial government agencies or by the First Nation's own economic development arm, the Carmacks Development Corp. The First Nation corporation owns and operates the **Northern Tutchone Trading Post** at the north end of the bridge. It is a general store that sells handmade native crafts as well as hunting/fishing licences. The Trading Post also has a post office. This venture and the First Nation office create employment for members.

Future business possibilities are being studied, and negotiations have continued with Western Copper Holdings for joint ownership in a mine only 25 km. from Carmacks. A chipper has been installed in the new Administration Building, as part of the Alternative Energy Program, which may provide some revenue or employment opportunities.

## Capital

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Indian and Inuit Affairs' Band Support Funding is supplied to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to First Nation membership and provide a central administrative base.

The Chief and Council have portfolios in the following areas:

Economic Development

Recreation

Finance

General Concerns

Housing

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation receives money for operation of water, sewer and fire protection services, and for the maintenance of roads and community buildings.

The First Nation still uses a majority of deep wells. Water and sanitation services in the village have been getting upgraded to a system of piped water with septic fields and drainage.

The older homes, mostly on the river flats, have had problems due to the high water table and overcrowding. The new houses are being built higher up on a plateau above the river, offering better drainage and more space.

Garbage is hauled by the First Nation for members to a community land-fill.





**THE FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NY'A'K DUN**  
*Mayo, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 220  
Mayo, Yukon  
Y0B 1M0  
Phone No.: (403) 996-2265  
Fax No.: (403) 863-5710

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone of Athapaskan descent

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone Council

**GENERAL**

Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun First Nation inhabits land in and around the village of Mayo. Mayo is located 407 km north of Whitehorse and is surrounded by mountains, numerous lakes, rivers and creeks. The village is situated on the flood plain of the northern bank of the Stewart River, 5 metres above the water level. The area is susceptible to flooding during runoff, but is protected by dikes. The hills and mountains in the area are overgrown with small timber that is cut and hauled to be used locally as firewood.

Historically, Mayo was a fur trade centre; presently there are approximately 78 traplines in the area. When gold and silver were found in local creeks, Mayo Landing emerged as a shipping port and served the mining industry, until a road was built in the 1950s. When the port declined as a result of decreased river traffic, Mayo became a prospecting base for mineral exploration in the surrounding area, rather than a service base.

According to 1994 statistics, the resident population of Mayo is 472. Mayo's economy includes retail outlets, motels and two transport companies. The tourist trade is beginning to take root in the community, with more public facilities opening up, including wilderness, fishing and touring businesses. The 50 km. highway between Mayo and the Klondike Highway at Stewart is referred to as the "Silver Trail."

The town functions as a distribution centre for the neighbouring communities of Elsa and Keno, although few people have remained in these towns since the United Keno Hill silver mines closed in 1989. During the winter, only about 18 people remain in Keno.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation's leadership is composed of a Chief and five Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief and two Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. In the present constitution the Chief, Deputy Chief, and elder are elected by the general membership, and three Councillors are elected by three designated family groups. The last election was held in August of 1994.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The First Nation membership document was approved in September 1987. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The First Nation Final and Self Government Agreements were initialled in June of 1992. Both the Land Claim and Self Government Agreements were officially signed by Robert Hager, Chief of Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader, in the signing ceremony of May 29, 1993 in Whitehorse. Legislation came into effect on February 14, 1995.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Danny Joe, N.D.P., Mayo-Tatchun Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. operates a hydro-electric station with a standby diesel generator.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** All-weather Klondike Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** One pumper plus one 1,000-gallon tanker, 16 volunteers.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, one corporal, two constables, and one native special constable position, vehicles and boat.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**BANK:** The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has an agency operation three times a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Silver Trail Bakery and Cafe, Holly's Place Deli, general store (Mayo Caselot), Mayo Variety store, service stations, Health Centre and Nursing Station, two motels, two Bed and Breakfast facilities, and tourist businesses (tours, fishing and wilderness programs), RV Park, public library.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

First Nation Office/Administration Building  
Treatment Centre  
Safehouse                    2  
Drop-in Centre/Daycare Complex  
Garage                      2  
Warehouses                2  
Heating Plant  
78 Houses

**FIRST NATION LAND**

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 129.48 Ha. at junction of Stewart and McQuesten River  
LAND SET ASIDE: None - settled and transferred with Land Claims Settlement.  
PARCELS SET ASIDE: None  
\*(See Highlights of Final Agreement in Appendix)

**POPULATION FIGURES:**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 - Yukon Region - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	155
On Reserve	2
Off Reserve	<u>257</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>

165 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION**

**FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS**

- \* Education
- \* Social Development
- \* Capital
- \* Economic Development
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure & Service O & M

The First Nation operates under a Program Services Transfer Agreement.



## **Education**

First Nation members attend school at the J.V. Clark School in Mayo. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for the services of a Community Education Liaison Co-ordinator (CELC), and for related costs and services.

Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building on Nisutlin Drive in Whitehorse.

The First Nation wants more control over its education system.

## **Social Development**

The Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The First Nation also receives funds for one social service worker, and has administered its own social assistance program for a decade. This includes In-Home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, Basic Needs and Special Needs programs.

For several years before 1986, the First Nation separate society ran a group home for children, with funding provided by I&IA. Indian and Inuit Affairs now provides per diem funds for children in Yukon government care.

The occupancy level at the Mayo Group Home has decreased in recent years, primarily due to priority placement of children in foster homes rather than group homes. The placement of children continues to be the responsibility of the Yukon government. The First Nation is presently negotiating with the Yukon government for transfer of this responsibility.

## **Capital**

Capital funding for Canada's Green Plan Initiative and Bill C-31 housing program is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs for the self-governing First Nations. The Government of Canada has negotiated and signed Financial Transfer Agreements with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun for all other capital resources.

## **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Funding is provided for programs, including subsistence, elders' traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

The Silver Trail Bakery and Cafe is a First Nation-owned company.



### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The primary administrative responsibility lies with the First Nation Manager who directs all personnel, financial issues (other than large capital projects) and program management, with the exception of land claims.

The First Nation prepared an administrative policy manual in 1987 which outlines the responsibilities of the Chief, Council, First Nation staff and general organization. Council members are appointed portfolio responsibilities shortly after an election.

The current portfolios are:

Land Claims

Social Programs

Capital Programs (including housing)

Finance and Administration

### **Community Infrastructure**

As part of the Self Government/Land Claims settlement, Canada has negotiated and signed a financial transfer agreement with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun for the delivery of community infrastructure services, such as road maintenance, community buildings, and municipal and fire protection services. The First Nation also receives funding for services performed by the town of Mayo.

During the past few years, a major project to bring water and sewer systems to First Nation residences has been completed. The project was funded by the Village of Mayo, Yukon Territorial Government, and Indian and Inuit Affairs.



**ROSS RIVER DENA COUNCIL \***

***Ross River, Yukon***

\* the legal name for this First Nation is "Ross River Band"

**ADDRESS:**

General Delivery  
Ross River, Yukon  
Y0B 1P0  
Phone No.: (403) 969-2278/9  
Fax No.: (403) 969-2405

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska of Athapaskan descent.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Kaska Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

Ross River is located 360 km northeast of Whitehorse near the junction of the Campbell Highway and the Canol Road, in the Tintina Trench beside the Pelly River. Ross River is a community of about 400 people, at least 70% of whom are aboriginal. The Canol Road intersects the town; First Nation residences are mainly on the eastern side and non-aboriginal on the west.

The original aboriginal people of the Upper Pelly River area used the Ross River site as a seasonal camp. As prospecting and mining grew in the area, Tlingit control of trade among the Kaskas was broken. A trading post was established near the present site in 1903.

Construction of the Canol road and pipeline in the 1940s opened the area to overland traffic. Government offices were established after the Second World War in Ross River. In 1952, a split occurred in the First Nation and half the members went south to join the Liard River First Nation. The Ross River First Nation was officially recognized by Indian and Inuit Affairs in 1966.

Ross River is an unincorporated community directly administered by the Yukon government. There was an attempt made to have Ross River become a self-administered village, but that issue has been stalled.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The Ross River Dena Council's leadership is composed of a Chief, an Elder Councillor and three Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Three members of council

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. Franchise is extended to First Nation members at age 16 for election of Chief and Council. Elected terms are for three years. The last election was held on August 11, 1995.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Willard Phelps, Minister of Health and Social Services, Education, Independent, Ross River Southern Lakes Riding

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

A draft code did not meet the criteria set out in the Indian Act. The First Nation is continuing to work on a final version.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Negotiations of the Final and Self Government Agreements pursuant to the Umbrella Final Agreement have not yet commenced.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** A transmission line from the Whitehorse Dam is administered by the Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. There are also three standby diesel generating units.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** Unpaved all-weather Campbell Highway from Carmacks to Watson Lake.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Volunteer department with pumper, hoses, breathing equipment; water supply is the Pelly River.

**POLICE:** An RCMP detachment with one corporal, one constable, and one native special constable, equipped with snowmobiles, a boat and two vehicles.



**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week to the post-office.

**BANKS:** CIBC has an agency operation in Ross River, open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** A hotel (23 rooms), gas/service stations, and a licensed restaurant are open for public use. There are two general stores in the community, one of which one is operated by the First Nation.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funds provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for members through community designed and administered programs.

## **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building 2

Workshop

Garage 2

Community Hall

Drop-in Centre

Cultural Centre

Healing Centre

110 Houses

Washroom

## **FIRST NATION LAND**

### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE Land: None

LAND SET ASIDE: 60.721 Ha. in and around the community of Ross River, set aside, between 1965 and 1992.

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 16 (5 parcels - 13 lots)

## **POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land 282

On Reserve 8

Off Reserve 91

Total 381

29 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The economy of Ross River depends mostly on trapping, forestry, guiding, mineral exploration, expediting and First Nation office employment. Many First Nation members are employed by the administration office. Tangible socio-economic benefits are being reaped through agreements signed by the Ross River Dena Development Corporation with Anvil Range, Yukon Gold Corporation Resources (YGC), and Cominco.

## PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION

### *FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS*

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services O&M

### Social Development

The Ross River Dena Council receives funding from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The Council has administered its own social program for over a decade. This includes In-home Adult Care, Elders' Wood, Basic Needs and Special Needs.

### Education

The Ross River School serves the community from grades K-10. Students must finish high school in Watson Lake or Whitehorse.

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the Council directly for the services of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) and for related costs and services. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support from the First Nations' Education Program in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

Yukon College also operates a Community Learning Centre offering technical and trades courses for adults. There has been continual growth in attendance.

### Economic Development

The Ross River Dena Development Corporation is the Council's business development arm. This First Nation-owned company owns and operates a general store and has signed a variety of agreements with the mining industry in the recent past which enable the aboriginal community to benefit from economic growth and activity in the area.

In March 1995, the Ross River Dena Council signed an accord with Anvil Range Mining Corporation, owner of the Faro mine. Annual payments to the First Nation will total \$1 million over the estimated 10-year life of the mine. The accord also includes training for Ross River Kaska Dena and ensures that members of the First Nation receive half of all summer jobs, half of the available apprenticeships, as well as \$35,000 in annual scholarships.

The Ross River Dena Council and Cominco also reached an agreement in March on a framework designed to foster the participation of the Ross River Daska Dena in all phases of the Kudz ze Kayah mine development project. The agreement would ensure that the construction and operation of the mine would bring lasting positive benefits in terms of the economic and social development of the Ross River Kaska Dena, as well as the Yukon in general.

Tangible socio-economic benefits are already being felt by the Kaska Dena people. A number of businesses have been set up by Ross River Dena members to take advantage of contracting opportunities arising from on-going exploration activities. In October 1995, Cominco will make the first of a series of semi-annual payments to the Ross River Dena Development Corporation for interruption of use of traditionally-used lands impacted by the Kudz ze Kayah mine. Cominco will also be providing scholarship funds for qualified Ross River Dena members, in the amount of \$35,000 per year for each year that the mine is in operation to a maximum of \$350,000.

In another agreement, Yukon Gold Corporation Resources Ltd. will be working on Ross River lands for two years operating an open pit mine and transporting gold oxide ore to the Ketza River mill. The agreement gives the Ross River Dena priority in hiring and contracts, and an option for joint-venture participation.

### **Capital**

The Ross River Dena Council provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the elected Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and to create a central administrative base.

The Chief and Council have portfolios in the following areas:

- Political/First Nation Affairs
- Social Development
- Economic Development/Capital
- Education/Recreation
- Land Claims/Uses

## **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Ross River Dena Council receives funding for maintenance of roads and community buildings, and for the operation of sanitation, water and fire protection services. Water is delivered by truck three times a week from a new filtration well to all houses in the community.

The sanitation system includes individual and group septic tanks, subsurface tile fields and out-houses.



**SELKIRK FIRST NATION**  
***Pelly Crossing, Yukon***

**ADDRESS:**

General Delivery  
Pelly Crossing, Yukon  
Y0B 1P0  
Phone No.: (403) 537-3331  
Fax No.: (403) 537-3902

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone of Athapaskan descent.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone Council

**GENERAL**

The Selkirk people originally led a nomadic life, migrating annually in search of food sources in the lower Pelly River area. When Fort Selkirk was established in the 1860s, First Nation members began settling there because of the availability of jobs and facilities.

Pelly Crossing was originally a ferry crossing and construction camp for highway workers, but lost its economic base when construction ended in the '50s. After the Klondike Highway was built, Fort Selkirk was abandoned. The First Nation was first moved to Minto and finally to its present location of Pelly Crossing by DIA in an effort to centralize and to provide administrative expediency.

Currently, there are about 291 people living in Pelly Crossing, most of them aboriginal.

Pelly Crossing is a community administered by the Selkirk First Nation Council.

**LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation's leadership is composed of two Co-Chiefs and four Councillors

**QUORUM**

Any four members of Council

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Selkirk First Nation has developed their membership code and it is now part of their constitution. Inquiries regarding membership should be referred to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Selkirk First Nation is a participant in the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. Selkirk First Nation is currently negotiating agreements.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Danny Joe, New Democrat Caucus, Mayo-Tatchun Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Two diesel generators are run by Yukon Electrical Company Ltd.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The all-weather Klondike Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire chief, six volunteers, pumper-truck, portable pump, 4,500-litre water tank, protected river water-hole.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment with one corporal, one constable, one boat, one vehicle and two snowmobiles.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**BANKS:** All banking is done by mail or phone.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Gas station with store, garage.

## **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building

Cultural Centre

Arena/Curling Rink

Youth Centre

Garage 2

Workshop

Carpentry Shop

Community Hall (including 2 suites reserved for Yukon government officials)

Washhouse

107 Houses

**POPULATION FIGURES***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	267
On Reserve	1
Off Reserve	<u>189</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>457</b>

130 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The employment opportunities in Pelly Crossing have always been limited, with little economic activity in the area. The only long-term employer is the First Nation office, with about 20 employees. Selkirk First Nation is looking at ways to stimulate the economy and to improve the employment rate through education and small business assistance.

**FIRST NATION LAND***ACREAGE AND STATUS*

RESERVE LAND: None.

LAND SET ASIDE: 276.467 Ha. in and around Pelly Crossing

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 10 (3 lots - 7 parcels)

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION*****FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services O & M

**Social Development**

The Selkirk First Nation receives and administers funds for social assistance. The First Nation has administered its own social development program for over a decade. This includes In-Home Adult Care, Elders' firewood and Basic and Special Needs Assistance.

**Education**

Students can attend grades K-12 at the **Eliza Van Bibber School** in the community. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the Selkirk First Nation directly for related costs and services, and for the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC).

In May 1993, two grade 12 students graduated from the school for the first time in its history. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

The First Nation foresees the need for higher education and job training in order to administer programs and develop the community economy as its adult population increases.

### **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funding provides for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

### **Capital**

The First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs and Yukon Government. The funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to carry out its responsibilities to membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The Council structure has changed, with the creation of the two Chief system, both who handle different duties. One Chief is responsible for administration and day-to-day affairs, while the other handles long-term planning in areas such as land claims.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Selkirk First Nation receives funding for the operation of water, sewer and fire protection services, and for the maintenance of community buildings and roads. The community of Pelly Crossing has 50 private well/septic tank systems. Other families haul water from neighbours' wells and use out-houses for sanitation. There is no reservoir.

Garbage is hauled to the local dump by the First Nation for members. The First Nation Council is considering upgrading and re-designing the village layout for increased efficiency, safety and health.



**TA'AN KWACH'AN COUNCIL**

*Whitehorse, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

Box 5359  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 4Z2  
Phone No.: (403) 668-3613  
Fax No.: (403) 668-6577

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Southern Tutchone Tribal Council (STTC)

**GENERAL**

The traditional members of the Ta'an Kwach'an Council were based in the Ta'an Mun (Lake LaBerge) area. They frequented areas around Whitehorse and Lake Laberge, and along the Yukon River as far south as Hootalinqua. They had a traditional government system headed by Chief Jim Boss at the time when non-natives first established themselves in the area.

Until 1956, the LaBerge 08 Band, now the Ta'an Kwach'an Council, was an entity recognized by the department and its Indian Agents. Then the department amalgamated traditional members of the Kwanlin Dun, based in the Marsh Lake area, with the Ta'an Kwach'an. The two groups occupied, harvested, and used as a main meeting place the area now known as the City of Whitehorse.

Traditional members of the Kwanlin Dun, together with transient members of other First Nations who later moved to the Whitehorse area, were loosely affiliated and formed the Whitehorse Indian Band. Following the amalgamation, the LeBerge 08 Band was considered part of this band, which was later named the Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

In the late 1980's the Ta'an Kwach'an re-established its traditional government body under the name Ta'an Kwach'an Council, putting their hereditary Chief and Council back into power. They have also received recognition from the Council of Yukon First Nations as a Yukon First Nation.

The Ta'an Kwach'an Council is not currently recognized as a Band under the guidelines of the Indian Act, and therefore the department is, at this time, unable to devolve administration of programs and services directly to them. The Umbrella Final Agreement, however, recognizes the Ta'an Kwach'an Council as a separate First Nation entity. At the present time, the Ta'an Kwach'an Council is negotiating a separate land claim and self-government agreement under the terms of the Umbrella Final Agreement.



**TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION**  
*Atlin, B.C.*

**ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 132  
Atlin, B.C.  
VOW 1A0  
Phone No.: (604) 651-7615  
Fax No.: (604) 651-7714

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Tlingit - West Coast

**GENERAL**

Atlin is in northern British Columbia, approximately 100 km. south of Jakes Corner in the Yukon. It has a population of approximately 500. The town of Atlin has existed since 1898 with mining as its prime economic base. The beautiful mountains surrounding Big Atlin Lake make this community one of the most scenic areas of the region. Its nickname is "Little Switzerland."

The Tlingit people came from the Alaskan coast into Teslin, Atlin and Carcross - and had some influence in the Tahltan area of B.C. The original Tlingits travelled from Juneau, Alaska along the Taku River basin in search of fur to trade with the Russian traders of Alaska. Some of the Tlingits settled in the Atlin area. The Tlingit traditions and culture brought over from the coastal region are strongly practiced by the Atlin people.

The Taku River Tlingits were known as the Atlin-Teslin Indian Band until a separation in 1964. Teslin people joined the Teslin Tlingit Council. Most Atlin-area First Nation people remained with the Taku River Tlingits, although some joined the Carcross/Tagish First Nations.

**LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Spokesperson, and four Clan Directors. Both the Spokesperson and Clan Directors follow the advice and direction of the Elders Council.

**QUORUM**

Spokesperson and two clan directors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Under the Clan system, all directors are appointed by their respective clans, no elections are held.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Taku River Tlingit First Nation has developed its own membership code. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be referred to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Active talks with respect to land claims/self-government negotiations with both federal and B.C. governments are being held pursuant to the B.C. Treaty Commission process.

## **GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Mike Scott, Reform, Skeena Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Power is supplied by B.C. Hydro from a diesel generating station in Atlin. A hydro transmission line runs past the reserve.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** A 100-kilometre all-weather gravel road joins Atlin to the Alaska Highway at Jakes Corner, Yukon.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Volunteer fire department, pumper truck with 6,300 litre water tank.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment in Atlin

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is delivered three times a week. The post office has a box service. A local delivery firm also provides a courier service.

**BANK:** Banking is done in Whitehorse.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** The facilities in the community include: 3 motel/hotels; 1 service station/garage; 2 private campgrounds; 1 government maintained campground; 1 laundromat; 1 liquor store and 3 cafe/restaurants, 2 bed and breakfast establishments, 2 grocery stores, one general store, government office and a visitor information centre.



**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Complex  
Water Treatment Building  
Warehouse  
Radio  
Education Office  
Daycare Facility  
Community Centre  
31 Houses

**FIRST NATION LAND**

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 1,278.2 Ha. - in and around Atlin  
TITLED: 1.569 Ha. - in and around Atlin  
TITLED PARCELS: 7 lots  
RESERVES: 10

**POPULATION FIGURES**

***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 (STATUS ONLY)***

On Crown Land	18
On Reserve	81
Off Reserve	<u>234</u>
Total	<b>333</b>

175 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Employment is almost completely seasonal, with the exception of First Nation office work. Many First Nation members leave the area in order to find work in the Yukon or southern B.C.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

## **Social Development**

The First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. They are funded for one social service worker, and have administered their own social development program for about a dozen years. This has included In-Home Adult Care, and Basic and Special Needs programs.

## **Education**

Students can attend kindergarten to grade 9 in the community. Secondary school students move to Whitehorse or Vancouver to further their education. Indian and Inuit Affairs provides funding to the First Nation for the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) and related costs and services.

First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building on Nisutlin Drive in Whitehorse.

## **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). A \$3.6 million Alternate Funding Arrangement was signed in November 1992, giving the First Nation more control over the setting and administering of its finances. The Taku River Tlingit Clan Directors are now responsible for developing and managing a full range of programs for its members, such as social development, capital works, community services, financial management, and in education, guidance counselling services and the provision of student supplies.

Programs provided for include: subsistence, traditional, cultural and elders' activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.

**Taku River Tlingit Holdings Co.** is the economic development arm of the First Nation. It plays a major role in the First Nation economy, and in the preparation for a land claims settlement. Businesses held by the company include a sawmill and construction division and salmon fishing on the Taku River; also they administer non-profit maintenance and social development programs. For a small commission, the company will help independent small businesses.

## **Capital**

The Taku River Tlingit First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Funding is provided to the First Nation to administer its responsibilities to the general membership, and to provide a central administrative base.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community Infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Taku River Tlingits receive funding for operation of water, sewer and fire protection services, and for the maintenance of community buildings and roads.

Water delivery service is supplied to First Nation residences since the First Nation constructed a pumphouse with a water intake system from the lake, completed in 1993. The intake system, and pumphouse also includes a water treatment system; the construction projects used \$400,000 in Green Plan funding, which also provided a water truck for delivery.

Garbage disposal is in an open dump. The First Nation provides a collection service by truck to members.





**TESLIN TLINGIT COUNCIL**  
*Teslin, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

Box 133  
Teslin, Yukon  
Y0A 1B0  
Phone No.: (403) 390-2532  
Fax No.: (403) 390-2204

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Tlingit

**GENERAL**

The present location of the Teslin Indian village was a traditional summer camp site. Tlingit people came over from the Alaskan coast into Teslin, Carcross and Atlin, B.C. and had some influence in the Tahltan area of B.C. The original Tlingits travelled from Juneau, Alaska along the Taku River basin in search of fur to trade with the Russian traders of Alaska. Some of the Tlingits settled in the Teslin area at Nisutlin Bay around the Taylor and Drury trading post site.

After the Alaska Highway was built in 1942, the community of Teslin became more permanent.

The Tlingit tradition and culture, brought over from the coastal region, is strongly practiced and taught today by the Teslin Tlingit Council citizens. This tradition influenced the change in the structure of the First Nation government and elections.

Teslin Tlingit Council citizens live mostly in the southwest section of the village of Teslin, although the population has expanded into the Fox Point area with the arrival of Bill C-31 members. The Teslin community has a resident population of 465 according to 1994 population figures.

**LEADERSHIP**

The Clan leadership is composed of a Chief and five Councillors

**QUORUM**

Any four members of Council

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. In 1988 the Tlingit Council passed a constitution which included adoption of a more traditional system involving the elders of the five clans. The elders each pick a representative at the Council level. The chosen five appoint a Chief and Deputy Chief, and the remaining three are councillors.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The membership code is under First Nation control. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Teslin Tlingit Council completed negotiations with the Governments of Canada and Yukon of its Final Land Claim and Self Government Agreements on November 6, 1992. Ratification of both Agreements has been approved by all Clans within the Teslin Tlingit Council. Both agreements were officially signed by David Keenan, Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader, on May 29, 1993. Legislation came into effect on February 14, 1995.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Willard Phelps, Minister of Health and Human Resources, Yukon Party, Ross River Southern Lakes Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. distributes main power from Whitehorse Dam. Generator backup.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** All-weather paved Alaska Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Volunteer fire department with pumper, hoses, ladders, etc. St. John Ambulance First Aid and CPR is taught to fire fighters.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, one corporal, two constables, cars and boat. Teslin has always been strongly supportive of the Tribal Police Program, and may become a participant.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

## **FIRST NATION PROFILES**

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**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** All facilities are available, including two motels, gas stations, tourist commercial campgrounds and food outlets. The First Nation operates a coin laundromat and showers servicing its members and the public.

**BANK:** Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce commutes to the community every second Wednesday for services between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Buildings 2  
Long House (Cultural Centre)  
Workshop  
Washroom  
Healing Centre  
Recreation Centre  
Drop-In Centre  
Warehouse  
119 Houses

### **FIRST NATION LAND**

#### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 187.68 Ha. - in and around Teslin

LAND SET ASIDE: None - settled and transferred with Land Claims Settlement

PARCELS SET ASIDE: None

RESERVES: 3

\*(See Highlights of Final Agreement in Appendix)

### **POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	60
On Reserve	185
Off Reserve	<u>255</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

192 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of Dec. 30, 1994.

### **PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

#### **FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS**

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

## **Social Development**

The First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The First Nation has administered its social program for some time. This has included In-Home Adult Care and Basic and Special Needs programs.

## **Education**

Grades K-9 are offered at the Teslin School in the community. Students move to Whitehorse to complete high school. About 20% of First Nation members complete grade 12. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for related costs and services and the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC).

Status First Nation members may apply for post secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse. As of the 1991/92 term, five Bill C-31 members were being funded. The First Nation plans to focus on obtaining further education and training programs for members, to meet administration demands and other related job needs resulting from a land claim settlement.

## **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs provided for include economic development enterprises as well as subsistence, elders and traditional and cultural activities. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.

In Teslin, the largest employer is the First Nation office. Most businesses in and around Teslin are owned by non-aboriginals. The First Nation has committed itself to a restructuring of its economic development system. The plan is to establish a First Nation-owned company to organize First Nation businesses and opportunities, offer assistance to individuals opening small businesses, and to provide training for management positions. The First Nation is also considering Teslin's tourism potential.

The increase in the Teslin First Nation size and growth due to Bill C-31 members may aid the economy - the market size is growing and many new members are bringing skills and experience to the First Nation.

## **Capital**

Capital funding for Canada's Green Plan Initiative and Bill C-31 housing program is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs for the self-governing First Nations.

The Canadian Government has negotiated and signed Financial Transfer Agreements with the Teslin Tlingit Council for all other capital resources.



### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to members and to provide a central administrative base. Indian and Inuit Affairs provides funding for Indian Management Development to enable the First Nation to develop Comprehensive Management Development plans and to provide specific management training and development for Chief and Council, senior First Nation management, First Nation staff and the First Nation electorate. The First Nation Council makes major decisions as a group, and does not use a portfolio system.

### **Community Infrastructure**

As part of the Self Government/Land Claims settlement, Canada has negotiated and signed a Financial Transfer Agreement with the Teslin Tlingit Council for the delivery of community infrastructure services such as road maintenance, community buildings, and for municipal and fire protection services.

The First Nation organizes delivery of chlorinated water by truck from a well at the townsite. Some First Nation residences receive a piped water supply from private wells.

Sewage collection facilities for most of the village and Reserve #13 is through a piped sewer system. Mains drain to two lift stations with holding tanks; trucks take sewage to two anaerobic and two aerobic cells with capacities for 2.5 million and 3.5 million litres. Some First Nation homes have outhouses instead of being on the town system, although plans have been finalized for an extension of the existing system.

Garbage disposal is in an open dump with truck collection supplied by the First Nation for its members.

### **LEGAL STATUS OF COMMUNITY**

Teslin is incorporated under the Municipal Act as a village with an elected council, on which some First Nation members sit.



**TR'ON DEK HWECH'IN**  
***Dawson City, Yukon***

**ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 599  
Dawson City, Yukon  
Y0B 1G0  
Phone No.: (403) 993-5385  
Fax No.: (403) 993-6553

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Han

**GENERAL**

The Han people have inhabited their traditional territory in the central western Yukon and eastern Alaska for several thousand years. Their lands span areas of the Yukon River from the mouth of the Stewart River to the mouth of the Klondike River, including Yukon River tributaries back to their headwaters.

The Han's first contact with European people occurred between the late 1700's and 1840's at the time when Russian and Hudson Bay fur traders were founding trading posts. As explorers, missionaries, and prospectors began to move into the Territory, the Han moved closer to trading posts and missions.

In 1887, a townsite was established at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike Rivers on what was originally the site of a summer fish camp. The discovery of gold in 1896 brought in thousands of prospectors and grubstakers. By the turn of the century, this influx had pushed the aboriginal people from their village at the mouth of the Klondike River to the Moosehide Reserve, three miles from Dawson City.

In 1898 Dawson became the capital of Yukon, a city of 40,000 people with telephone, water and steamboat services.

When the gold rush came to an end in 1899, 8,000 people left Dawson. Major mining operations eventually took over most Klondike gold beds. Higher gold prices caused a minor boom in the 1930s. The last dredge was shut down in 1965. By then, the Yukon's economic centre had already shifted to Whitehorse, which became the capital in 1953. Dawson experienced a devastating flood in May 1980, prompting the construction of a dike along the Yukon River.

Moosehide and the surrounding area was designated a reserve in 1902. In the late 1950s the declining population of Moosehide caused the Han people to move to Dawson where they have become an integral part of the community. Today Moosehide is used mainly as a summer camp and traditional ceremonial area.

The city's population is 2,019 according to December 1994 figures. First Nation members make up approximately 28% of the population.

Dawson is a bustling tourist centre in the summer, supported by placer mining activity in the surrounding area. It is also a mineral exploration service and supply centre. The Tr'on dek Hwech'in take an active role in the community and in the development of the town.

### **LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

### **QUORUM**

Any three members of Council

### **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system extending franchise to band members 16 years of age and older. The term for Chief and Council is three years; the last election was held in October of 1993.

### **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The First Nation has applied for and received funding to develop their membership code. Inquiries regarding membership should be referred to the First Nations' office.

### **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF GOVERNMENT**

Tr'on dek Hwech'in First Nation is currently negotiating Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements.

### **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable David Millar, Yukon Party, Klondike Riding

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. operates a diesel generating plant in Dawson

**MAIN TRANSPORTATION:** All-weather Klondike Highway

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Dawson Fire Fighter's Association with 20 volunteers and two pumpers. First Aid and CPR is taught to fire fighters. The City provides fire protection to First Nation members living within city limits.



## **FIRST NATION PROFILES**

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**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, one sergeant, four constables, vehicles and boat.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** are many and varied - including hotels, motels, gas stations, tourist entertainment, commercial campgrounds and food outlets within the Town of Dawson City.

**BANK:** Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Community Hall 2  
Community Cookhouse  
Cultural Centre 2  
Administration Building  
Carpentry Shop  
Warehouse  
Heating Plant  
77 Houses  
Daycare

### **FIRST NATION LAND**

#### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 406.3 Ha. at Moosehide Creek Reserve 2 & 2b

LAND SET ASIDE: 366.2013 Ha. in and around Dawson

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 1 parcel + 77 lots

RESERVES: 2

### **POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	167
On Reserve	3
Off Reserve	386
Total	556

235 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The First Nation is concerned with high unemployment among its members. Much of the work is seasonal, notably in fisheries and tourism. Therefore, long-term employment is one of the main objectives of the First Nation in the next few years, mainly through Chief Isaac Incorporated, its economic development arm.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION*****FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service O & M
- \* Political Leadership

**Social Development**

The First Nation receives and administers funds for social assistance. They have administered their own social assistance program for the last decade. This has included In-home Adult Care, Basic Needs, Special Needs and Elders' Fuel. The First Nation has used social assistance funds to employ status members on projects to upgrade community buildings at the Moosehide Reserve.

**Education**

Students can attend grades K-12 at **The Robert Service School** in Dawson City. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) position and other related costs and services. First Nation members may apply for post-secondary educational support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building, on Nisutlin Drive in Whitehorse.

**Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). They provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for members through community-designed and administered programs.

Other revenues for First Nation economic programs are supplied by federal and territorial government agencies or by the First Nation's company, **Chief Isaac Incorporated**.

Chief Isaac Incorporated controls all of the First Nation's businesses. The Chief and Council members are the company's Chair and Board of Directors. The company manages investments in the **Ice House**, a retail seafood outlet in Whitehorse, and **RAB Energy** (Northerm), a window manufacturing business which is also in Whitehorse. These investments provide opportunities to sell technology and to set up employee training programs.

**Han Fisheries**, which is also owned by Chief Isaac Inc., operates from its processing plant in Dawson on the Yukon River and employs primarily First Nation members. The fisheries operates from five to six months a year. Fish are processed for 10-12 weeks during the summer and fall. Processed frozen salmon is marketed in the U.S. through a fish broker. Salmon roe is also processed and sold to American and Japanese markets. Up to 20 First Nation members are employed during peak fishing seasons.

In the summer of 1992, **Han Natural Products Ltd.** gained national and international attention with its mushroom-harvesting venture. Chief Isaac led and developed this activity to include exports to Japan, Europe and other interested buyers. The company expects to expand to include other natural products.

Chief Isaac Inc. also owns a large commercial building in Dawson and operates a soda fountain and laundromat there. Space is leased to the First Nation Council. In the early '90s the First Nation built a Community Hall, which serves as a meeting place for various functions.

### **Capital**

The Tr'on dek Hwech'in provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to the First Nation membership and to provide a central administrative base.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Some First Nation residents receive a piped supply of chlorinated water from the city system. Outlying homes use private wells. The sewage system consists of piped collection, which is microscreened and drained into the Yukon River. Garbage is disposed of in a dump, with collection done by local contractors hired by the Town.

### **Political Leadership**

The political leadership is organized into the portfolio system. Chief and Councillors have responsibility for various areas including First Nations Affairs/Political, Land Claims, Social Programs, Finance, Housing, Economic Development, Town of Dawson City.





**VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION**

*Old Crow, Yukon*

**Address:**

General Delivery

Old Crow, Yukon

Y0B 1N0

Phone No.: (403) 966-3261

966-3037

Fax No.: (403) 966-3800

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kutchin of Athapaskan descent.

**GENERAL**

The existence of people in Old Crow has been traced back 30,000 years, and according to archaeological evidence it may be the earliest civilization in North America.

The native people of the Old Crow area originally settled at Fort Yukon in 1840 at the mouth of the Porcupine River, because of the trading posts on the river. When the Canada/U.S. border was established in 1867, the Vunta Kutchin people moved to Rampart House, a trading post just inside the border.

The present location of Old Crow, further north from that site, was chosen because of its unique hunting and fishing location, near major spring caribou crossing places - also it had been a gathering spot for families going down the Porcupine to trade. Until the 1950's people wintered in small camps along the river, however after the building of a store and a public school at Old Crow, the present community became a year-round settlement.

The community is about 800 km north of Whitehorse, inside the Arctic Circle. It is accessible only by air, or by boat in summer from Fort Yukon, Alaska.

Because of its isolation, the community of Old Crow has been somewhat protected from the "outside" influence of western culture. First Nation members have resisted pressures of the more dominant society in an effort to maximize preservation of their way of life.

Statistics from December 1994 show a population of 263 in Old Crow.

A new national park has been created in the Old Crow Flats region, named **Vuntut National Park**. The park's creation was part of the settlement of the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive land claims settlement, signed on May 29, 1993. The park will be managed cooperatively with the Vuntut Gwitchin, whose ownership also extends to the Flats outside the park's boundaries.

## **LEADERSHIP**

The Vuntut Gwitchin leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief (or Deputy Chief) and two Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. Franchise is extended to First Nation members aged 16 and over. The term for Chief and Council is two years. The last election was held in November 1992.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The First Nation has not yet developed its own membership code.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

This First Nation was the first to complete negotiations for First Nation Final and Self Government Agreements on May 31, 1992. Both Agreements were officially signed by Robert Bruce Jr., Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader, on May 29, 1993. Legislation came into effect on February 14, 1995.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

**M.L.A.:** To be determined following bi-election in Vuntut Gwitchin Riding. The incumbent, the Honourable **Johnny Abel** of the Yukon Party, died in a tragic canoe accident on the Old Crow River on October 13, 1995. Mr. Abel had been elected Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in the 1970's and 1980's and was held in high esteem by the people of Old Crow and the Yukon.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. supplies power via a diesel generating plant.

**MAIN TRANSPORTATION:** Supplies are shipped by air freight.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Six volunteers, tanker and pump. Fire fighters are trained in First Aid and CPR.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment with one corporal, one constable and one native special constable.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is flown in three times a week

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Old Crow Co-op store, restaurant, limited accommodations at Nukon Cabins.

**BANK:** Banking is done through a Toronto Dominion Bank agency office in the post office building. It is staffed by local residents. The TD bank has an agency operation contract with the Vuntut Gwitchin whereby the First Nation provides the people and the bank supplies the technology. The hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays. The agency office has a debit machine with deposit capability which uses banking cards and Visa. Withdrawals through Interac will be possible, as will satellite banking and preauthorized bill payments.

#### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building  
Community Hall  
Workshop  
Warehouse  
Garages                      2  
Drop-In Centre  
84 Housing Units

#### **FIRST NATION LAND**

##### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND:            0

LAND SET ASIDE:   None - transferred with Land Claims Settlement

PARCELS SET ASIDE:   None, transferred with Settlement

\*(See Highlights of Final Agreement in Appendix)

#### **POPULATION FIGURES**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	223
On Reserve	10
Off Reserve	<u>164</u>
Total	<b>397</b>

121 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The Vuntut Gwitchin have a traditional subsistence-based economy. The main income is from trapping, hunting and fishing in and around Old Crow Flats, to the north of town.

Wage employment is derived from First Nation-run businesses and projects, seasonal government jobs, housing construction and maintenance, First Nation administration, janitorial and co-op store positions.

## PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION

### *FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS*

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

### Social Development

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. It has administered its own program for more than a decade, which has included In-Home Adult Care, and Basic and Special Needs programs. The First Nation is also funded for one half-time social service worker position.

In July of 1991, a vote was taken to prohibit alcohol in the community.

### Education

The **Chief Zzeh Gittlit School**, operated by the Yukon Government, offers grades K-10. Most students move to Whitehorse to complete high school. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for costs and services, and the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC).

Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building on Nisutlin Drive in Whitehorse.

The First Nation plans to focus on training and further education for members, to meet demands in administration and other employment related to land claims settlement.



### **Economic Development**

The First Nation set up the Vuntut Gwitchin Economic Development Corporation to oversee the Community's economic future.

The Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council also owns the Old Crow Co-operative Association, and a 50% share in Nukon Cabins Ltd. The co-op runs a store. Firms privately owned by First Nation members include several service and craft-oriented businesses.

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs provided for include economic development enterprises, as well as subsistence, traditional and cultural activities. The goal is to develop community-designed and administered programs.

### **Capital**

Capital funding for Canada's Green Plan Initiative and Bill C-31 housing program is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs for the self-governing First Nations.

Canada has negotiated and signed Financial Transfer Agreements with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for all other capital resources.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to members, and to provide a central administrative base.

Funding for Indian Management Development and Comprehensive Community Based Planning is provided to enable the First Nation to develop Comprehensive Management Development plans, and to provide specific management training and development for Chief and Council, senior First Nation management, staff and the electorate.

### **Community Infrastructure**

As part of the Self Government/Land Claims settlement, Canada has negotiated and signed a Financial Transfer Agreement with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for the delivery of community infrastructure services such as road maintenance, community buildings, and municipal and fire protection services.

An artesian water well was drilled in 1982, yielding good-quality water. Water is delivered to households by truck. A municipal service agreement has been entered into with YTG and the First Nation for the delivery of this service.



**WHITE RIVER FIRST NATION**  
***Beaver Creek, Yukon***

**ADDRESS:**

General Delivery  
Beaver Creek, Yukon  
Y0B 1A0  
Phone No.: (403) 862-7802  
Fax No.: (403) 862-7806

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Upper Tanana.

**GENERAL**

The area has been inhabited for over 10,000 years and was a homeland for the Upper Tanana people who made stop-over camps during seasonal migration in search of food. Beaver Creek was originally a camp for teams surveying the Canada-Alaska border from 1907 to 1913.

Prospectors soon followed, and mining remains of major interest today. In 1955 the Canada Customs post was built approximately 32 kms. from the border by road. A post office was established in 1958 and the community began to develop.

Today, Beaver Creek is strongly linked to the Alaska Highway and the seasonal stream of tourists generated by the highway. The Highway had an enormous impact on the native population, which is only being recounted in the recent past. The town is mainly non-aboriginal with a total 1993 population of 123.

**LEADERSHIP**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and three Councillors

**QUORUM**

Any two members of Council

**METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election system. All members living in the Yukon over 16 years of age are eligible to vote in White River First Nation elections. Terms are two years in length. The last election was held on July 5, 1993.

**MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The White River First Nation does not control its own membership code.

**LAND CLAIMS AND SELF GOVERNMENT**

The White River First Nation is covered by the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. Preliminary negotiations will commence in late 1995.

**GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Bill Brewster, Minister of Renewable Resources,  
Yukon Party, Kluane Riding

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The community is supplied with power by diesel generators

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The paved all-weather Alaska Highway

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Beaver Creek has a fire chief and volunteers serving the community with a pumper truck and a 6,819 litre tanker; 4,546 litre tank in fire hall.

**POLICE:** The Beaver Creek area has an RCMP detachment of one corporal and one constable.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is delivered to the community three times a week.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** four motel/campgrounds, two restaurants, and three service stations.

**BANKS:** The Toronto Dominion Bank operates twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays for 2-hour durations. Hours of operation differ from summer to winter.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

Administration Building  
Warehouse  
17 Houses

**FIRST NATION LAND*****ACREAGE AND STATUS***

RESERVE LAND: None

LAND SET ASIDE: 35.174 Ha. - in and around Beaver Creek

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 12 (3 parcels and 7 lots)



**POPULATION FIGURES***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	43
On Reserve	0
Off Reserve	<u>73</u>
Total	116

1 First Nation member was reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1994.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Some full-time employment is available through the First Nation office, as well as seasonal work in the tourism industry. Many members are self-employed, hunting and trapping for subsistence.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS*

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

**Social Development**

The White River First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The program includes In-home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic and Special Needs Assistance.

**Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation directly for related costs and services and the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC). Students can attend kindergarten to grade 8 at the **Beaver Creek School** and complete secondary school in Haines Junction or Whitehorse. Status members may apply for post-secondary education support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council of Yukon First Nations' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

**Economic Development**

Beaver Creek is a Canada Customs Port of Entry, and exists primarily as a tourist and transport/communications centre.

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs are administered to provide for economic development enterprises, subsistence, elders' needs, and traditional and cultural activities.

A small native crafts store is operated in Beaver Creek.

### **Capital**

The White River First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Program Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation to administer its responsibilities to First Nation membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The Chief and Council have portfolios in the following areas:

Executive Director and Finance

Renewable Resources

Elders' Programs

Social Development

Economic Development/Capital Projects/Infrastructure

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The White River First Nation receives funding for maintenance of roads and community buildings, as well as municipal and fire protection services.

The water/sewer system at Beaver Creek is a combination of wells and out-houses for some residences and a storage tank with a common septic field for the remainder.

White River members haul their own garbage to the community dump.

## **APPENDIX**





## COUNCIL OF YUKON FIRST NATIONS

The original agency dedicated to securing a land claim settlement for Yukon's aboriginal people was the Yukon Native Brotherhood (YNB). Officially incorporated in 1970, YNB represented status and non-status Indians until the non-status Indians in the Territory formed their own organization, the Yukon Association for Non-Status Indians (YANSI) in 1971.

In November 1973, YNB and YANSI agreed to the establishment of a separate negotiating arm whose primary objective was the settlement of land claims for all Yukon Indians. Its name was the Council for Yukon Indians (CYI). YNB and YANSI each had representatives in the CYI, as did each of the then 12 First Nations.

While negotiations proceeded, both the YNB and YANSI continued to occupy themselves with their own responsibilities, however lack of funding plagued both organizations. As a result, in February 1980 at a special Tri-General Assembly of the CYI, YNB and YANSI, a decision was made to amalgamate all three under the name Council for Yukon Indians.

The CYI assumed all of the functions of the 2 former organizations and has continued to fulfill its mandate of negotiating land claims on behalf of the Yukon's First Nations people.

CYFN's membership is about 8,000 people, and it is directed by the leaders of the 14 Yukon First Nations, ten of which have not yet completed their land claims agreements. The CYFN also provides advisory and advocacy services to First Nations.

Since March 1989, proposals to re-structure the Council for Yukon Indians (as it was then called) after land claims have been under active consideration by Yukon First Nation leadership. The dominant issue has been how a central agency will best serve the interests of all Yukon First Nations.

Following a General Assembly in August 1995, the CYI was named "The Council of Yukon First Nations." A new constitution was adopted reflecting the mandate of the central body to support Yukon First Nations in concluding and implementing their land claim agreements as well as the inherent right to self-government. The new constitution was signed by 11 of the 14 Yukon First Nations, and a resolution permits those 3 First Nations to sign at their discretion.

Harry Allen, the CYI's interim Chair, was formally appointed by the Assembly to a three year term, with the new title "Grand Chief."

## **A CHRONOLOGY OF THE CYI COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIM**

1970 - The Yukon Native Brotherhood (YNB) is formed to represent status Indians;

1972 - The Yukon Association for Non-Status Indians (YANSI) is formed;

1973 - The Council for Yukon Indians is established late in 1973 to represent status and non-status Indians in the negotiation of a joint land claim. CYI's land claim proposal, entitled *Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow*, is accepted by the Federal government for negotiation;

1980 - YNB, YANSI and CYI amalgamate to form a single entity, and retain the name Council for Yukon Indians. An Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) is reached between CYI and Federal and Territorial negotiators. In 1984 the AIP is ratified by the Federal and Territorial governments, but rejected by the CYI General Assembly. Insufficient land quantum, the requirement for extinguishment of aboriginal title, and the absence of provisions respecting self-government are the primary reasons for its rejection;

1985 - The Federal *Task Force to Review Comprehensive Claims Policy* recommends changes to the federal land claim negotiating policy, including a recommendation of concurrent negotiation of self-government agreements;

1986 - The federal government announces its revised Comprehensive Land Claims Policy, incorporating many of the recommendations of the Federal Task Force Report, including provision for the negotiation of self-government agreements;

1987 - As negotiations resume, a new mandate for the negotiation of the CYI Comprehensive Claim is issued by Federal Cabinet under the revised Comprehensive Claim Policy;

1989 - In March, a new Agreement-In-Principle is ratified by Canada, the Yukon Territory and the Council for Yukon Indians. Its provisions include:

- \$242.6 million in compensation;
- 16,000 square miles of Settlement land over which aboriginal title is retained;
- participation on various land and wildlife boards and committees;
- subject matter to be addressed during the negotiation of individual Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreements;
- federal ratification also provides for the negotiation of an Umbrella Final Agreement or UFA to include provisions common to all Yukon First Nations.

1991 - The Yukon First Nations ratify, in principle, the Umbrella Final Land Claim Agreement at their General Assembly;

1992 - On May 30, 1992 the UFA is initialled by negotiators for CYI, the Federal and Territorial governments. The UFA provides a common framework for the negotiation of separate land claim and self-government agreements with each of the 14 Yukon First Nations;

1992 - Between May and November, negotiators initial Final Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements on behalf of Canada, Yukon Territory, and the first four Yukon First Nations (Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council, Na-Cho Ny'A'K Dun First Nation; Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; and Teslin Tlingit Council);

1993 - On March 17, the Yukon Territory Legislative Assembly passes enabling legislation, ratifying Yukon First Nation Final Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements. The bills, entitled An Act Approving Yukon Land Claim Final Agreements and First Nations (Yukon) Self-Government Act are accompanied by the Vuntut Gwitchin Agreements;

In May, The Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council ratifies its Final Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements. It is the last of the first four Yukon First Nations to complete ratification, clearing the way for Federal Cabinet approval for the drafting of Yukon Land Claim and Self-Government legislation for presentation to Parliament.

On May 29th, in an outdoor ceremony in Whitehorse, the political representatives of Canada, the Yukon Territory, and four Yukon First Nations officially meet to sign the First Nation Final (Land Claim) and Self-Government Agreements. Canada and the Yukon Territory, together with the Chair of the Council for Yukon Indians, sign the Umbrella Final Agreement.

The federal Yukon Land Claims Settlement Act and Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act receive Royal Assent on July 7, 1994, but neither act has been proclaimed into force. The land claim agreements require that a third piece of federal legislation, the Yukon Surface Rights Board Act, be in force at the time the settlement and self-government legislation is proclaimed.

The surface rights legislation receives Royal Assent on December 15, 1994.

The Legislation (Bills C-33, C-35 and C-55) was proclaimed by Order-in Council on February 14, 1995.





# Information

Information Sheet No. 69

September 1995

## PROGRESS ON COMMITMENTS TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

As outlined in *Creating Opportunity: The Liberal Plan for Canada* (the Red Book), the federal government is dedicated to creating a new partnership with Aboriginal peoples. Over the last two years, the Government of Canada, together with Aboriginal peoples, has launched several initiatives which have resulted in steady progress on the priority concerns of Aboriginal peoples. Some of these include:

**Signing of Political Accords.** In February 1994, the Government of Canada signed a Political Accord with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP). In the spring of 1995, discussions took place on the draft Political Accord developed with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC). Preliminary discussions have also taken place with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada to develop a Political Accord.

**Amendments to the Indian Act.** On April 4, 1995, Minister Irwin wrote chiefs, councillors and leaders of First Nations organizations asking for their views on possible short-term amendments to remove offensive and intrusive sections of the *Indian Act* – more than 80 per cent of the responses received were favourable. On September 1, 1995, Minister Irwin wrote requesting that the recommendations forwarded by chiefs, councillors, and leaders be considered by the various First Nations.

**Manitoba Dismantling.** In April 1994, the Government of Canada signed a Framework Agreement with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to commence negotiations to confirm First Nations jurisdictions and to dismantle the regional office of DIAND. It will focus initially on the transfer of fire protection, capital management, and education to Manitoba First Nations.

**The Mohawk/Canada Round Table.** On June 20, 1994, the Government of Canada and the Grand Chiefs of Akwesasne, Kahnawake and Kanesatake launched the Mohawk/Canada Round Table. The Round Table was established to facilitate practical progress in five priority areas: economic development, taxation, policing, justice administration, and Akwesasne multi-jurisdictional issues.

**Education.** In 1994–1995 the Government of Canada announced the infusion of an additional \$20 million annually into the existing Post-secondary Education program, allowing an additional 2,100 Aboriginal students to attend college or university. The overall Post-secondary Education program budget, including the additional \$20 million, has increased by \$48 million or 22.5 percent since 1993–94.



**Economic Development.** The Department is working with Aboriginal groups and Industry Canada to develop an Aboriginal Tourism Strategy as one mechanism to support Aboriginal sustainable economic development. In February 1995, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the White Bear First Nation in Saskatchewan to enable it to assume the oil and gas management functions currently discharged by Indian Oil and Gas Canada. Similar MOUs on oil and gas management were signed in Alberta by Horse Lake, Blood Tribe, and Siksika First Nation.

**A Treaty Process.** The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development signed Declarations of Intent with the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations on March 16, 1995 and with the Treaty 7 Chiefs of Alberta on July 9, 1995 to begin exploratory discussions on a treaty process. On August 29, 1995, a Framework Agreement was signed with Huron-Wendat and the Quebec government which will set out the future relationship between the Huron-Wendat, the federal, and the provincial governments. Discussions have also been held with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations on a revised mandate for the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

**Procurement.** On October 13, 1994, the Department adopted *Aboriginal Access to Procurement* as an internal policy to enable Aboriginal businesses to better access departmental procurement opportunities. As a result of this policy, the Department has held information sessions for Aboriginal contractors and maintains inventories of First Nations suppliers.

In addition, the Government of Canada is currently finalizing program design for procurement measures aimed at stimulating the growth of Aboriginal business, based on the advice it has received from consultations held with Aboriginal business across Canada.

**Housing.** The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, with input from national Aboriginal organizations, are finalizing a new federal policy on Aboriginal housing. The new Aboriginal housing policy is based on the following pillars: addressing the need; increasing community control; improving skills and organizational development; enhancing job creation and economic development; and ensuring social spin-off benefits.

**Infrastructure.** The Government of Canada is investing in the renewal of public infrastructure in partnership with the provincial governments, the private sector and First Nations. As part of Canada Infrastructure Works, the Department has implemented the First Nations Infrastructure Initiative (FNII). Over a two-year period which began in 1994, \$30 million is being provided for over 350 projects. Including all sources, the total estimated value of all projects will be \$84.6 million.

**Land Claims.** There have been 35 specific claim settlements (\$90.2 million) and five comprehensive claim settlements (\$154.9 million) since the Government took office. Legislation has been passed to implement claims settlements with the Sahtu Dene and Métis (NWT), four First Nations in Yukon Territory, the Split Lake Cree First Nation (Manitoba), and the Pictou Landing First Nation (Nova Scotia).

Labrador claim negotiations have begun and will continue, as will negotiations related to a number of special claims which have been accepted by the Government for settlement, such as the Cold Lake and Canoe Lake cases and Kanesatake.

The governments of Canada and British Columbia, and the First Nations Summit, established the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) to facilitate the negotiation of modern day treaties in British Columbia. The BCTC has received 48 statements of intent to negotiate, encompassing over two-thirds of the 196 First Nations in that province. Four framework agreements have been negotiated with the B.C. First Nations of Sechelt, Gitksan, Wet'suwet'en and Gitanyow. Two framework agreements have also been negotiated with the Yukon Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and the Teslin Tlingit Council.

**Co-management.** The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is working with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to establish the Saskatchewan Co-management Innovation Initiative. This four-year program provides Saskatchewan First Nations with funding to plan for and carry out co-management negotiations and for start-up activities after co-management agreements are in place. To date, the program has supported nine co-management research projects addressing a variety of First Nations interests, including forestry, fish, water, mining, tourism and the environment with the province and the private sector. Preliminary discussions about a co-management initiative in Alberta are in progress.

**Inherent Right of Self-government.** On August 10, 1995, the Government of Canada released its policy on the recognition of the inherent right of self-government under section 35 of the Constitution of Canada and formally launched the negotiating process which will enable Aboriginal peoples to implement their inherent right of self-government. This will result in their ability to exercise greater control and responsibility over matters that affect their communities.

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This is one of a series of information sheets produced by the Communications Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. For information sheets on other topics, contact:

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QS-6047-069-EE-A1



# Information

Information Sheet No. 3

September 1995

## ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Aboriginal peoples were the first inhabitants of Canada. In the thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans, they developed a variety of systems of government which reflected their different cultures and spiritual beliefs tied to their ancestral lands, as well as particular economic, social and geographic circumstances.

With the arrival of the European colonists, and the establishment of colonial government, treaties were signed with many Aboriginal groups to ensure their friendship or to exchange lands and resources. Following this, governments introduced laws and policies designed to assimilate Aboriginal peoples into non-Aboriginal society. As a result of these policies, the authority and functions of traditional Aboriginal governments were eroded. Over time, Aboriginal peoples suffered a decrease in their standard of living to become among the most disadvantaged in Canada.

Today, Canadians agree the old policies have failed. The federal government recognized the need to renew the relationship with Aboriginal peoples and governments in Canada. The Canadian Government believes Aboriginal peoples have the right: to govern themselves; to make decisions over matters that affect their communities; and to exercise the responsibility that goes hand-in-hand with self-government. The Red Book commitment recognizing Aboriginal peoples' inherent right to self-government marks a historic turning point in Canada's relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

On August 10, 1995, the Government of Canada launched a policy approach for the implementation of the inherent right and the negotiation of Aboriginal self-government. The federal policy recognizes that the right of Aboriginal peoples to self-government has always existed and has never been extinguished. The government has proposed negotiations as the best method to achieve new arrangements that restore hope and dignity to Aboriginal peoples and strengthens the partnership between them and other Canadians in the context of an evolving federation.

Because Aboriginal groups have different needs, no single model of self-government will be followed. Self-government arrangements will take many forms based on the diverse historical, cultural, political and economic circumstances of the Aboriginal groups, regions and communities involved. Among Indians, for example, there are 10 major linguistic groups, some 58 languages and six distinct cultural regions.

Negotiations will focus on matters that are internal to Aboriginal communities; matters that are integral to Aboriginal cultures, identities, traditions, languages and institutions; and matters relating to their Aboriginal lands and their resources. This may include new arrangements in areas such as Aboriginal languages, cultures, education, health, housing and social services, among many others.



All self-government agreements will be based on the following key principles:

- The inherent right is an existing Aboriginal right recognized and affirmed under the Canadian Constitution.
- Self-government will be exercised within the existing Canadian Constitution. Canada's recognition of the inherent right of self-government does not mean sovereignty in the international sense. Aboriginal peoples will continue to be citizens of Canada and the province or territory where they live, but may exercise varying degrees of authority in areas of federal and provincial jurisdiction.
- The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* will apply fully to Aboriginal governments as it does to all other governments in Canada. The current provisions of the Charter that respect the unique Aboriginal and treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples will continue to apply.
- Due to federal fiscal constraints, all federal funding for self-government will be achieved through the reallocation of existing resources.
- Where all parties agree, rights in self-government agreements may be protected in new treaties under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, in additions to existing treaties, or as part of comprehensive land claims agreements.
- Federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal laws must work in harmony. Certain laws of overriding federal and provincial importance, such as the Criminal Code, will prevail.
- The interests of all Canadians will be taken into account as agreements are negotiated.

The principles were developed following a broad-based and extensive consultation process. Over the past 18 months, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians met with Aboriginal leaders, provincial and territorial governments, and other groups. They listened to many views on how to make this right a practical reality.

Self-government arrangements won't be put in place overnight — they will be the subject intense local or regional negotiations among Aboriginal peoples and the federal government along with the relevant provincial or territorial government. Arrangements will proceed at a pace determined by Aboriginal peoples. As a first step, federal government representatives will meet with Aboriginal groups and the relevant province or territory to establish a process for negotiations acceptable to all parties as soon as possible.

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This is one of a series of information sheets produced by the Communications Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. For information sheets on other topics, contact:

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QS-6047-003-EE-A4





# Information

19520

## GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES PROCESS FOR NEGOTIATING ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

**OTTAWA (August 10, 1995)** - The Government of Canada today formally launched the negotiating process which will enable Aboriginal peoples to implement their inherent right of self-government. This will result in their ability to exercise greater control and responsibility over matters that affect their communities.

Today's announcement marks the realization of a key Red Book commitment.

"The paternalistic system has just not worked - and the proof is all around us," said the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ronald A. Irwin. "It is high time to seek new approaches that will give Aboriginal communities the legitimate tools they need to make a tangible, positive difference in the lives of Aboriginal peoples."

"This is as much about responsibility as empowerment," said Anne McLellan, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. "Self-government involves important responsibilities. And it is only through exercising those responsibilities that Aboriginal communities will be able to realize their full social and economic potential."

Negotiations will involve regional and local Aboriginal groups, the federal government and, in areas affecting their jurisdiction and interests, the pertinent provincial or territorial government.

In undertaking negotiations, the federal government will ensure that principles of financial and political accountability, which are essential for all governments, are respected.

Because Aboriginal groups have different needs, no single model of self-government will be followed. Negotiations will focus on matters that are internal to Aboriginal communities; matters that are integral to Aboriginal cultures, identities, traditions, languages and institutions; and matters relating to their Aboriginal lands and their resources. This may include new arrangements in areas such as Aboriginal languages, cultures, education, health, housing and social services, among others.

All self-government agreements will be based on the following key principles:

- The inherent right is an existing Aboriginal right under the Canadian Constitution.

.../2

- Self-government will be exercised within the existing Canadian Constitution. It should enhance the participation of Aboriginal peoples in Canadian society.
- The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* will apply fully to Aboriginal governments as it does to other governments in Canada.
- Due to federal fiscal constraints, all federal funding for self-government will be achieved through the reallocation of existing resources, as outlined in the 1995 Budget.
- Where all parties agree, rights in self-government agreements may be protected in new treaties under section 35 of the Constitution, in additions to existing treaties, or as part of comprehensive land claims agreements.
- Federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal laws must work in harmony. Laws of overriding federal and provincial importance such as the Criminal Code will prevail.
- The interests of all Canadians will be taken into account as agreements are negotiated.

Minister Irwin emphasized that the federal approach was developed following a broad-based and extensive consultation process. Over the past 18 months, Ministers Irwin and McLellan met with Aboriginal leaders, provincial and territorial ministers and other groups across the country to seek their views on how best to proceed with Aboriginal self-government.

Minister McLellan also indicated that achieving self-government for Aboriginal peoples not living on an Aboriginal land base - whether in urban areas, or in rural or remote communities - poses special challenges that will require commitment and creativity on the part of provincial and federal governments and Aboriginal peoples.

This news release is also available through the Internet at [www.inac.ca](http://www.inac.ca)

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## **YUKON FIRST NATIONS LAND CLAIM AND SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS TAKE EFFECT**

**WHITEHORSE (February 14, 1995)** -- Twenty-two years ago on this day, the late Yukon Elder Elijah Smith presented "a plan for our future" to then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and DIAND Minister Jean Chrétien which outlined the Yukon First Nations' vision for the land claims process.

Today, that vision will become reality as Judy Gingell, Chair of the Council for Yukon Indians, Ronald A. Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader, announce that the first four Yukon First Nations Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements come into effect.

The Yukon First Nations Land Claims Settlement Act (Bill C-33), the Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act (Bill C-34), and the Yukon Surface Rights Board Act (Bill C-55) are being proclaimed into law today. This gives full legal effect to the Final and Self-Government Agreements of four Yukon First Nations: Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the First Nation of Na-Cho Ny'a'k Dun, the Teslin Tlingit Council, and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

"For Yukon First Nations, this represents the culmination of 22 years of negotiations with the federal and territorial governments," said Ms. Gingell, Chair of the Council for Yukon Indians. "It is the end of one very long road, and the beginning of a new era, as Yukon First Nations finally take control of their own destiny. We are urging cooperation from the federal and territorial governments in concluding Agreements for the outstanding 10 First Nations." she added.

Minister Irwin said "I am confident the dreams and wishes of the Yukon First Nations will be fulfilled according to the foresight of those such as Elijah Smith. I believe that in the partnership created, we can work together for the benefit and the future of all Canadians."

"This is a significant day," Mr. Ostashek said, "as the visions of Yukon Elders will now shape the growth and strength of First Nation people in the territory. This will give us the momentum to fulfil a primary objective, which is to complete and implement the remaining Final and Self-Government agreements."



The Land Claim Agreements contribute to certainty of land title, and provide other benefits to the First Nations including financial compensation, land, defined Aboriginal rights and benefits. The Self-Government Agreements give Yukon First Nations greater control over their own affairs and enable greater political autonomy and economic self-reliance.

The proclamation of legislation completes the land claims process for four of the Yukon's 14 First Nations. Under these agreements, they receive title to 17,273 square kilometres of land plus \$79.9 million (in 1989 dollars - paid in installments over 15 years) in compensation payments. The rights and benefits are in exchange for certainty over the remaining land in the four First Nations' traditional territories.

The legislation also provides for the establishment of territory-wide advisory and adjudicative boards, including the Fish and Wildlife and Land Use Planning bodies, involving the participation of Yukon First Nations. Regional bodies such as Renewable Resources Councils and the Kluane Park Management Board will allow First Nations to participate with other Yukon citizens in cooperative management of natural and cultural resources within each First Nation's traditional territory, and the Kluane Park Management Board.

A new national park called Vuntut has also been established, and a special management area, encompassing both the new park and the remainder of the Old Crow Flats will also be established.

The Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust has also been established with \$3.24 million (in 1992 dollars) to restore, enhance, and protect fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

The Yukon Indian People Training Trust has been established to advance First Nations training, with contributions totalling \$7.1 million (in 1992 dollars) from both the Yukon and federal governments.

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Background information may be obtained from the offices of the CYI, the Yukon Government and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

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# News Release Communiqué

1-9411

## HISTORIC PROGRESS FOR YUKON FIRST NATIONS

**OTTAWA (May 31, 1994)** — Historic progress on the realization of the self-government aspirations of Yukon First Nations was made today as the Honourable Ronald A. Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development introduced the Yukon First Nations Land Claims Settlement Act (Bill C-33), and the Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act (Bill C-34) in the House of Commons.

"This government made a commitment in the Speech from the Throne that we would put before Parliament legislation to further the implementation of northern claims settlements," stated Minister Irwin. "Today, we are delivering once again on that commitment as we did in March with the Sahtu Land Claims Settlement Legislation."

Once in force, Bill C-33 will give effect to land claims agreements concluded with four Yukon First Nations: the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Teslin Tlingit Council, and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. Bill C-33 also provides that future land claims agreements may be brought into effect by order of the Governor in Council.

"Under the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA), the 14 Yukon First Nations will receive a total of 41,439 square kilometres of land (16,000 square miles) and \$242.6 million in cash compensation paid over 15 years," added Mr. Irwin. "The land claims agreements also include other economic benefits as well as participation in wildlife and management boards. The agreements will also contribute to the certainty of land title. The Vuntut National Park will be established and part of the reserve for Kluane National Park will be designated as national park."

Bill C-34, when enacted, will give effect to the Self-Government Agreements (SGAs) negotiated with the four Yukon First Nations. Each of the four First Nations will exercise law-making powers on settlement lands in the areas of land use and control, hunting, trapping and fishing, licensing and the regulation of businesses. The First Nations will also have the power to enact laws for their citizens in the Yukon, primarily with respect to the provision of programs and services in the areas of language, culture and spiritual beliefs; health care; social and welfare services and training programs, taxation and the administration of justice. As contemplated in the legislation to support the land claims, Bill C-34 also provides that future self-government agreements with the remaining 10 Yukon First Nations may be brought into effect by order of the Governor in Council.



"The Self-Government Agreements will give the four Yukon First Nations significantly greater control over their own affairs and will contribute to greater political autonomy and economic self-reliance," said Minister Irwin. "The SGAs are innovative and take into consideration the unique circumstances of First Nations in the Yukon. They represent a major accomplishment in advancing Aboriginal self-government in Canada, but will in no way prejudice any benefits which Yukon First Nations might obtain through the inherent right discussions."

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## UMBRELLA FINAL AGREEMENT

- DEFINITION:** The Umbrella Final Agreement is a framework within which each of the 14 Yukon First Nations will conclude a final claim settlement agreement. All UFA provisions are a part of each First Nation final agreement.
- POPULATION:** Approximately 8,000 Yukon Indians.
- FIRST NATIONS:** Carcross/Tagish; Champagne and Aishihik; Dawson; Kluane; Kwanlin Dun; Liard; Little Salmon/Carmacks; Nacho Nyak Dun; Ross River Dena; Selkirk; Ta'an Kwach'an Council; Teslin Tlingit Council; Vuntut Gwitchin; White River.

### Highlights of the Umbrella Final Agreement

#### Land Title

A total of 41,439 square kilometres (16,000 square miles) of land including Category A land with surface and sub-surface rights and Category B land with surface rights only, but including rights to material such as sand and gravel.

#### Economy

- \$242.6 million in cash compensation (1989 dollars) to be divided among the 14 First Nations and paid over 15 years, beginning after each final agreement is reached.
- Yukon First Nations will receive full rental revenues from surface leases and royalties from the development of non-renewable resources.
- Full ownership of mines and minerals on lands will enable Yukon First Nations to develop these resources.

#### Wildlife

Rights to harvest wildlife for subsistence purposes throughout traditional territory; preferential harvesting of some species; exclusive harvesting on Category A land; and approximately 70 per cent of the traplines allocated in traditional territory. Under the direction of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, a \$3 million joint government-Yukon First Nation trust will be established to restore and enhance wildlife populations and habitat in the Yukon.

#### Land and Resource Management

Guaranteed at least one third, and as much as two thirds, representation on land use planning bodies; one third membership on Yukon Water Board and 50 per cent representation on Development Assessment Board, Surface Rights Board, Territorial Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Renewable Resources Council.

#### Heritage

Provisions promoting and preserving the culture and heritage of Yukon Indians. Provisions include ownership of Yukon Indian ethnographic resources, and guaranteed membership on heritage resources and geographical place names boards.





## AN OVERVIEW

### Introduction

Comprehensive claims negotiations are intended to accommodate the interests of Aboriginal Peoples, governments and third parties.

Comprehensive claims settlements receive constitutional protection under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

### Background

The Council for Yukon Indians' (CYI) claim, entitled "*Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*", was accepted by the federal government for negotiation in 1973. An agreement-in-principle was reached in 1984 and ratified by both the federal and territorial governments, but was rejected by the CYI General Assembly.

In December 1986, a new federal policy on Comprehensive Claims was announced which addressed some of the key concerns of the Yukon First Nations. Negotiation of the Council for Yukon Indians comprehensive claims resumed in 1987 in accordance with the revised policy. A new agreement-in-principle was accepted by all parties in 1988.

### Process

The CYI claims negotiations have focused on the following key elements:

- An umbrella final agreement (UFA), which provides the framework for First Nation Final Agreement negotiations;
- Individual Yukon First Nation final agreements (YFNFAs), which incorporate provisions of the umbrella final agreement and address the specific circumstances of each Yukon First Nation;
- Self-government agreements;
- Implementation Plans for the Agreements.

The UFA has been approved by the CYI General Assembly. Yukon First Nation final agreements and self-government agreements have also been ratified by the Champagne and Aishihik, the Nacho Nyak Dun, the Teslin Tlingit Council, and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nations. The Yukon and federal governments have ratified all agreements.

### Yukoners' Benefits

- Certainty of ownership, and management of lands and resources over a large area of the Yukon;
- Self-government structures whereby the political aspirations of the beneficiaries represented by the four Yukon First Nations will be realized;
- Indian people will have the resources to participate in, and benefit from, economic opportunities;
- Industry will be supported by the resolution of the land question and by the establishment of clear requirements for environmental protection and approval mechanisms.

### Future Negotiations

Negotiations are continuing with five additional Yukon First Nations: Dawson; Kwanlin Dun; Ta'an Kwach'an; Selkirk; and Little Salmon/Carmacks. It is expected that the remaining five Yukon First Nations will enter into the negotiation process within the year.



**HIGHLIGHTS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS WITH**  
**CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATION**  
**FIRST NATION OF NACHO NYAK DUN**  
**TESLIN TLINGIT COUNCIL**  
**VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION**

**Background**

In 1989, the federal government approved the negotiation of self-government agreements parallel to negotiations for the Yukon First Nations Final (Land Claim) Agreements.

The self-government agreements (SGAs) for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation, the Teslin Tlingit Council, the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun will provide local autonomy in terms of decision-making affecting Indian people in the Yukon. The implementation of the SGAs through specific legislation means the four Yukon First Nations will no longer have to function under the Indian Act.

Each of the four First Nations will exercise law-making powers on settlement lands in the areas of land use and control, hunting, trapping and fishing, licensing and the regulation of businesses. A unique feature of the SGAs is that the four Yukon First Nations will also have the power to enact laws for its citizens in the Yukon, off settlement lands, in the areas of language, culture and spiritual beliefs; health care and services; social and welfare services; training programs; adoption, guardianship, custody, care and placement of children; education programs and services; estates; resolution of disputes outside the courts; and licenses to raise revenue.

Each First Nation's constitution will include a membership code; governing bodies and their powers, duties, composition, membership and procedures; a financial reporting system; and procedures to recognize and protect the rights and freedoms of its citizens. They will also allow the First Nations to challenge the validity of laws and quash invalid laws, and allow members to amend their constitutions.

The SGAs were negotiated within the existing Canadian constitutional framework, but will not prejudice the ability of the four Yukon First Nations to exercise or benefit from existing or future constitutional rights for Aboriginal peoples. As well, the SGAs will not affect any Aboriginal claim, right, title or interest; the identity of Yukon First Nations citizens as Aboriginal people of Canada; the ability of First Nations citizens to participate in and benefit from government programs for status Indians, non-status Indians or Native people; the rights of Yukon First Nations citizens as Canadian citizens or their entitlement to benefits, services, and protection afforded other Canadians.

## **Funding**

Five-year Financial Transfer Agreements (FTAs) totalling more than \$28.5 million have been negotiated with the four Yukon First Nations. The FTAs will provide funding for programs and services, including operations and maintenance, and ongoing and one-time implementation funding. The following represents the level of funding to the four First Nations in constant dollars:

### **Champagne and Aishihik First Nation:**

\$7.5 million over five years. The SGA was recommended on June 19, 1992 and ratified by the First Nation on September 15, 1992.

### **First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun:**

\$6.4 million over five years. The SGA was recommended on June 12, 1992 and ratified by the First Nation on April 16, 1993.

### **Teslin Tlingit Council:**

\$7.1 million over five years. The SGA was recommended on January 31, 1993 and ratified by the First Nation on April 20, 1993.

### **Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation:**

\$7.5 million over five years. The SGA was recommended May 31, 1992 and ratified by the First Nation on May 4, 1993.

Additional funding will be negotiated to support all 14 Yukon First Nations in future negotiations, as well as the YTG's participation in negotiations related to taxation and justice.

## **Program and Services**

Initially, only the responsibility and funding for Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) programs and services presently administered by each of the four YFN bands will be transferred to each First Nation.

## **Legislative Powers**

Federal laws of general application not inconsistent with settlement agreements will apply to the Yukon First Nations, their citizens and settlement land. There will be instances where it will be desirable that Yukon First Nations laws take precedence over federal law. The SGAs



require that Canada and each of the Yukon First Nations negotiate a separate agreement or an amendment to the SGA to identify areas in which Yukon First Nations laws will prevail over federal laws of general application. Territorial laws of general application will continue to apply to the Yukon First Nations, their citizens and settlement lands until they are replaced with Yukon First Nations laws.

Pending the outcome of a national Aboriginal Justice Policy review, the four Yukon First Nations have agreed not to exercise law-making powers with respect to the administration of justice prior to December 31, 1999 or unless an agreement is reached by the parties at an earlier date. In the interim, the Yukon courts will rule in respect of Yukon First Nations laws.

### **Taxation**

The four Yukon First Nations will have the power to enact laws respecting property tax on their settlement lands and direct taxation of their citizens within the settlement lands. Because Canada is reviewing its policy on Indian taxation, the CYI leadership has agreed to wait three years before they exercise these powers.

### **Municipal Planning**

The SGAs for the **Champagne and Aishihik First Nation**, the **Teslin Tlingit Council**, and the **First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun** set out compatible land use provisions under which the the three First Nations, the territorial government and adjacent municipalities can establish a joint planning structure to avoid adverse impact on adjacent settlement or non-settlement lands.

It also allows the three First Nations to enter into agreements with other Yukon First Nations, municipalities or government relating to municipal or local government services, joint planning, zoning or other land use control, including the establishment of district governments.

In addition, the SGAs set out a consultation/negotiations mechanism for regional or district structures regarding the establishment of common administrative and planning structures for part or all of the traditional territory.

The three First Nations have also agreed, under their SGAs, to suspend certain legislative powers they might have on specified land selections within municipal boundaries. The SGAs also require the municipal government to consider land use by the First Nations in municipal planning.

The Yukon Territorial Government encouraged the negotiation of these provisions to ensure that the interests of both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in the Yukon are taken into consideration.

### **Lands**

Lands for the use of and benefit of the **Champagne and Aishihik First Nation** might be set aside as a result of an eventual specific claims settlement. If this happens, negotiations will begin to establish a regime for the ownership, management and administration of those lands.

A provision in the **Nacho Nyak Dun** SGA sets out a new land tenure regime for the McQuesten Reserve No. 3. Reserve lands will still be deemed "for the use and benefit of Indians", but title will be vested to the First Nation. The lands will also be subject to any legal existing third party interest.

A provision in the **Teslin Tlingit** SGA sets out a new land tenure regime for Reserves No. 13, 14 and 15. Reserve lands will still be deemed "for the use and benefit of Indians", but title will be vested to the First Nation. The lands will also be subject to any legal existing third party interest.

### **Third Party Interests**

The SGAs provide for arrangements between Yukon First Nations and adjacent municipalities to make best efforts to ensure compatible land use, the establishment of local service agreements and regional or district structures to provide common administrative and planning structures for all residents in a given area of the Yukon.

### **Environmental Implications**

The four SGAs do not expressly deal with an environmental assessment process because one was already negotiated in the Umbrella Final Agreement. The UFA includes a development assessment process. This process, which will come into effect through legislation within two years of settlement legislation, will be comprehensive and rigorous in analyzing the impact of proposed development. The UFA and Yukon First Nations Final Agreements contain provisions respecting wildlife habitat protection.

## **CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATION**

### **Highlights of Final Agreement**

#### **Land Title**

- Approximately 1230.24 square kilometres (475 square miles) of land with surface and sub-surface title; 1165.49 square kilometres (450 square miles) of land with surface title only, but including rights to material such as sand and gravel; and 31.52 square kilometres (12.17 square miles) of land set aside or reserve.

#### **Economy**

- Participation in government employment, contracting and development projects in the traditional territory, including employment opportunities related to heritage sites, parks, forestry, and settlement land surveying.
- Option to acquire up to 25 per cent of royalties held by the Yukon government or its agencies or corporations in future non-renewable resource development and hydro projects in the traditional territory.
- Economic development agreements with the federal government to provide technical and financial assistance for economic development purposes to residents in the Champagne/Aishihik territory.
- Guaranteed participation in commercial freshwater, salmon fishery and sports fishing, adventure travel, forestry, outfitting and campsite operations in the traditional territory.

#### **Wildlife**

- Specific moose harvest for subsistence needs.
- Primary consideration in allocation of freshwater fish resources in traditional territory.
- Priority allocation of minimum number of sockeye and chinook salmon in the Alsek River basin.
- Exclusive harvesting rights in Kluane National Park within the Champagne and Aishihik traditional territory.

#### **Land and Resource Management**

- A special management area will be established to guide the development and/or management of Kluane National Park and Sha'washe and surrounding area, and joint management of the Tatshenshini River.

#### **Heritage**

- Provisions to nominate the Tatshenshini River as a Canadian heritage river.





## **FIRST NATION OF NACHO NYAK DUN**

### **Highlights of Final Agreement**

#### **Land Title**

- Approximately 2408.69 square kilometres (930 square miles) of land with surface and sub-surface title; 2330.99 square kilometres (900 square miles) of land with surface title only but including rights to material such as sand and gravel; and 9.27 square kilometres (3.58 square miles) of land set aside or reserve.

#### **Economy**

- Participation in government employment, contracting and development projects in the traditional territory, including employment opportunities related to heritage sites, forestry and settlement land surveying.
- Option to acquire up to 25 per cent royalties held by Yukon government or its agencies or corporations in future non-renewable resource development and hydro projects in the traditional territory.
- Specific commercial wilderness rights in commercial freshwater fishing, adventure travel, and commercial freshwater sports fishing.
- Comprehensive economic plan which may include preferential employment and business initiatives for the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

#### **Wildlife**

- Subsistence harvesting rights of moose, woodland caribou, fish, birds, etc.

#### **Land and Resource Management**

- Agreement to enter into negotiations with government and the Selkirk First Nation to establish the McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary as a Special Management Area.
- Representation on the Peel River Advisory Committee.
- Establishment of a wetland habitat protection area at Horseshoe Slough.
- Participation in management of the Peel River Watershed.

#### **Heritage**

- Trading post on Nacho Nyak Dun settlement land at Lansing will become a historic site.
- Provisions to nominate the Bonnet Plume River as a Canadian heritage river.



## **TESLIN TLINGIT COUNCIL**

### **Highlights of Final Agreement**

#### **Land Title**

- Approximately 1230.24 square kilometres (475 square miles) of land with surface and subsurface title; 1165.49 square kilometres (450 square miles) of land with title in surface only, but including rights to material such as sand and gravel; and 33.36 square kilometres (12.88 square miles) of land set aside or reserve.

#### **Economy**

- Participation in government employment, contracting and development projects in the traditional territory.
- Option to acquire up to 25 per cent of royalties held by Yukon government or its agencies or corporations in future non-renewable resource development and hydro projects in the traditional territory.
- Guaranteed participation in commercial freshwater and sports fishing, outfitting and commercial wilderness adventure travel; certain employment opportunities for work related to heritage sites, forestry and surveying.

#### **Wildlife**

- Specific moose harvest for subsistence needs.
- Primary consideration in allocation of freshwater fish resources in traditional territory.
- Approval needed on any proposed game farming or ranching activities in their traditional territory when Teslin Tlingit harvesting rights may be affected.
- Rights to harvest wildlife and forest resources in Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area.

#### **Land and Resource Management**

- Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area will be established. A joint management plan will be prepared taking into account traditional and current use by Teslin Tlingit of the Area.

#### **Heritage**

- Provisions recognizing and protecting the heritage and cultural significance of several specific routes and sites and the Nisutlin River Valley.





## **VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION**

### **Highlights of Final Agreement**

#### **Land Title**

- Approximately 7744.06 square kilometres (2990 square miles) of land with surface and sub-surface title; 7.16 square kilometres (2.74 square miles) of land set aside or reserve.

#### **Economy**

- Participation in government employment, contracting and development projects in the traditional territory, including employment opportunities related to heritage sites, forestry and settlement land surveying.
- Option to acquire up to 25 per cent of royalties held by Yukon government, its agencies or corporations in future non-renewable resource development and hydro projects in the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation traditional territory.
- Exclusive rights to all new big game outfitting concessions within Vuntut Gwitchin traditional territory.
- All commercial salmon fishing licences and all commercial salmon sport licences in Porcupine River drainage basin for 15 years; preferential rights afterwards to any allocation of commercial and sport fishing salmon licences.
- Right of first refusal for commercial wilderness travel and commercial freshwater sports fishing in Vuntut Gwitchin settlement territory.
- At least 50 per cent of federal position with the Vuntut National Park to employ Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation members.
- First option on business licences within the Vuntut National Park.

#### **Wildlife**

- Specific moose harvest for subsistence needs.
- Basic needs allocation of salmon in the Porcupine River drainage basin.
- Rights to subsistence level and harvesting in the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation traditional territory.

#### **Land and Resource Management**

- Three special management areas to be established: the Vuntut National Park, Fishing Branch Ecological Reserve and the Old Crow Flats Special Management Area.
- Provisions concerning the preparation of a land use plan before an all-weather road is constructed into the community of Old Crow.

#### **Heritage**

- Provisions for the protection, ownership and management of heritage resources and designated historic sites.
- Joint ownership and management of Rampart House and Lapierre House historic sites.



## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **BILL C-55**

#### **The Yukon Surface Rights Board Act**

The Yukon Surface Rights Board Act is a legislative obligation under the Yukon First Nations Final Land Claims Settlement Agreements. Under these Agreements, the federal government is committed to creating legislation for a Yukon Surface Rights Board. The Yukon First Nations Land Claims Settlement Act and the Yukon First Nations Self-Government Act received Royal Assent on July 6, 1994. These bills did not come into force until the passing of the Yukon Surface Rights Board Act (received Royal Assent on December 15, 1994).

The Yukon Surface Rights Board Act fulfils the legal requirements of the federal government under the Final Agreements. The YSRB Act establishes a process to resolve disputes between parties concerning access to surface and sub-surface rights. It also sets up the board to put the regime into effect.

Under the Act, a person may apply to the Board for the arbitration of a matter only after that person has first attempted to negotiate an agreement with the other party. The Board will have jurisdiction over such matters as:

- Access and use disputes between surface rights holders or between those holding surface rights and those holding sub-surface rights
- the establishment of terms and conditions relating to the exercise of a right of access
- the awarding of compensation for the right of access and damage resulting from that access
- the awarding of an interim access order
- awarding of compensation for the expropriation of settlement land, and
- the periodic review of an order where there has been a material change since the Board made the original order.

An order of the Board will be final and binding, and is subject to review only on specified grounds. An order of the Board may be filed with the Supreme Court of the Yukon Territory and enforced in the same manner as an order of that court.







